



Housing plan to include Charles, Blackstone

By **SIMRAN HUNDAL** and **PAYAL PATNAIK**
News-Letter Staff Writers

The administration has been developing a housing plan that will include on-campus housing for upperclassmen and a new freshman quadrangle.

Paula Burger, dean of undergraduate education and vice provost, hopes to add another housing complex similar to the AMRs on the west side of North Charles Street in order to create a "freshman campus" and free up housing for upperclassmen in Wolman. Burger speculated that the new complex would be located on what is currently the baseball field.

"We have a master plan that, over the next decade, would give the freshmen a better first-year experience, would allow upperclassmen who want housing to have it and would address the need of graduate students who want to live on campus," said Carol Mohr, director of Housing and Dining Services.

Hopkins turned down 269 upperclassmen who wanted to live on campus this year. Mohr said adding Wolman to the upper-class housing options would cause a dramatic increase in upperclassmen applying for on-campus housing. She also mentioned the long-term possibility that the Charles and Blackstone Apartments — currently owned by Hopkins Real Estate — would be turned into on-campus housing.

Student Council president Scott Bierbryer noted that while Hopkins's security gives juniors and seniors what they

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Appeals panel invalidates SGA vote, calls for re-election

By **STEPHANIE DELMAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

After an appeals panel disqualified all nine candidates from the first round of Student Council Executive elections, the Council announced that a re-election will begin Friday.

The Panel's hearings were closed and they did not release the specific reasons for each disqualification. The candidates were allegedly disqualified for infrac-

tions ranging from late campaign finance reports to soliciting votes during the voting period. The appeals process took place following last week's election, and the alleged infractions were reported by people closely linked to the election itself.

According to an anonymous member of Student Council, hardly anyone is privy to the information surrounding the disqualifications.

"The worst part of this whole ordeal

isn't the actual decisions that [the Appeals Panel] reached, but that nobody on the council ever knows what's going on, except for maybe people at the very top," said the source.

Dan Teran, freshman candidate for President, said he had no idea why he was disqualified last week.

Tyler Krus, chair of the Committee on Student Elections which oversees the elections, said that he would have told each candidate why they had been dis-

qualified if only they had approached him.

"If any candidates had contacted me, they could have been notified of the rationale for their disqualification. It's possible that some of them didn't know they could do that," Krus said.

According to current Student Council President Scott Bierbryer, the vagueness surrounding rules and procedures such as these is a poor reflection on the way

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A thrilling night at Hopkins



Members of a student group performed a dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" at Hopkins Got Talent, sponsored by Vision XChange last night.

CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



Allison Weir's speech at Hopkins caused preemptive controversy.

CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Charity event goes smoothly despite controversial speaker

By **MAX McKENNA**
News & Features Editor

A charity event involving a controversial speaker went smoothly despite the withdrawal of two participants and threats from administrators to pull funding.

Two administrators who agreed to judge Hopkins Got Talent withdrew after alleged pressure from students and faculty upset by the event's speaker, Allison Weir.

"It's a little strange to defame

someone without speaking to them some more," Weir told the News-Letter after the event.

Weir is a freelance journalist and founder of the group If America Knew, which claims that the deaths of Palestinians in the Middle East conflict have been severely underreported in the American media.

Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost Paula Burger decided not to judge the competition because the Israeli-Palestinian

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Things I've Learned, with Professor Matthew Crenson

By **STEPHANIE DELMAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Matthew Crenson lived through the aftermath of the Baltimore race riots, the Vietnam War and the Cold War, and he has shared his experiences in the classroom.

The political science professor first studied at the University, then later returned to Baltimore during the tumultuous Vietnam era.

After almost four decades of teaching, where he helped create a popular City Council internship program and did extensive studies of local neighborhoods, Crenson is set to retire.

He spoke to the News-Letter about the changes he has seen in students over the many years.

News-Letter (N-L): Were you on campus

during the Baltimore riots in 1968?

Matthew Crenson (MC): I was actually at Brookings at the time — I came back to Hopkins to teach in 1969. I did my undergrad here from 1959 to 1963, then I had my first teaching job at MIT, then I was at Brookings, where I did my dissertation.

My specialty is urban politics, so when I was at MIT, because of the interests of the students, not many students were involved in political science.

But the first time I walked into a classroom here in 1969, over 100 students were in the class. I was shocked. I had no TAs and had to do all of the grading myself.

Later that year, the on-campus focus

shifted from cities to Vietnam. In the spring, there was a strike, and many students walked out and occupied Charles Street. Police courted the area off and

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COURTESY OF THE DMM

Matthew Crenson is retiring after teaching for 40 years at Hopkins.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The Presidential Search Committee held a forum for student discussion.

Council jumps into search for president

Search committee holds one-time open forum for student input

By **HUSAIN DANISH**
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Student Council voiced its concerns to the Presidential Search Committee at an open forum on Monday, pressing its members to seek a candidate that would both lead Hopkins through the 21st century and address the concerns of the student body.

These concerns follow the seven-member committee's controversial decision not to include a member of the Council on the committee. While much of the meeting stayed away from this issue, Council president Scott Bierbryer called the meeting "an opportunity to move forward."

But others are still displeased by the committee's decision to not include a member of the Council on

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Court hands down new ruling on rape

By **HEATHER BARBAKOFF**
News & Features Editor

Maryland's highest court has redefined the concept of rape to include situations in which one party withdraws consent after penetration.

This decision by the Court of Appeals in the 2004 trial of *Baby v. Maryland*, which involved a student at Montgomery College, overturned its precedent that said consent could not be withdrawn after initial penetration.

"The Court's ruling clarified Maryland's rape law and it is clearly correct. It supports the autonomy of woman survivors and of women generally," said Lisae Jordan, legal director for the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, which filed a brief in the case.

The ruling gives women the right to retract consent after penetration, a decision that overturns precedent set by previous court rulings.

The court ruled that the *Baby v. Maryland* case must be retried because a judge did not clarify jurors'

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- Local avant-garde artists dream up some **unexpected instruments**, **B3**.



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- Love to get your flirt on through your cell phone? It's called "**flexting**" and we've got it, **B8**.
- Hate dealing with jerks at concerts? We've got 11 tips to avoid being "that guy," **B8**.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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NEWS & FEATURES

Study abroad office changes financial policies, simplifies applications

By ERIN YANG
For The News-Letter

The Office of Study Abroad has announced that changes to its billing and financial aid policies will take effect in the fall of 2008.

The new policy will bill students for the tuition required by their study abroad program plus an off-campus matriculation fee, currently assessed at 10 percent of Hopkins's tuition. Additionally, revised financial aid guidelines will allow for institutional grants and scholarships to be put towards approved study abroad programs.

An approved study abroad program has been evaluated by the Office of Study Abroad and the Faculty Advisory Committee on Study Abroad to ensure that the coursework matches the Hopkins's curriculum and will meet departmental standards of academic integrity.

The new system "will definitely decrease the costs for many programs," study abroad coordinator Sharon Chesney said. The previous system had students pay full tuition for Hopkins, and many forms of Hopkins financial aid did not apply to study abroad programs.

Lori Citti, the director of the Office of Study Abroad, believes that the new policy will make studying abroad "simpler and

more transparent to students, and ultimately opens up for more opportunities to a wider range of students," particularly those who are engineering and science majors.

Last year, 183 students participated in various study abroad programs, and the fall 2008 semester will have over 100 students abroad. While numbers are increasing steadily, Citti does not predict a much larger pool of students.

This year's most popular destination is Italy, followed by London, France and Spain. The choices of program and popularity are driven by students' majors of study; programs tend to gear more toward majors such as International Studies, Writing Seminars and psychology, or students with language majors or minors.

By having a one-on-one conference with each prospective study abroad student, the Office guides the students to lay the ground work in program selection, credit transfer, financial aid and pre-departure preparation.

Kerri McGovern, a junior Public Health Studies major currently at Copenhagen, Denmark, visited the Office a total of three times and had a pleasant experience working with Citti.

"She was helpful about the programs I was interested in

pursuing. It was a very straightforward process and wasn't very time consuming," she said.

Approaching the fundamental part of the academic curriculum, the planning stage can be exceptionally overwhelming. Sophomore Writing Seminars major Laura Berlinsky-Schine, who will attend program through Syracuse University, found the Office helpful in narrowing down her choices, and that it completed the logistics in a timely manner.

Despite small complications in her application process, Berlinsky-Schine was satisfied overall.

She suggested that future travelers call the host programs after submitting the paperwork to ensure all the forms arrive safely.

Stephanie Cogen, a sophomore, chose the Hopkins-affiliated Madrid, Spain program to fulfill her Spanish coursework and found the Office to be accommodating.

"They were really understanding and accommodating about the minor problem I had with transcript," Cogen said.

With a new location and facilities in Levering Hall, a constant stream of students comes into the Office to seek advice and information.

Many students have to book two to three weeks in advance for an appointment to meet with Citti.

"It was nearly impossible to

schedule an appointment. I repeatedly called and e-mailed the office and got no response for weeks," said Erica Bauman, a sophomore Writing Seminars major. She will be studying in Florence, Italy in the fall.

"I don't think I have to make appointments as its just quick questions. I would generally ask by e-mail, but Dr. Citti rarely responds to e-mails which can get very frustrating, especially when you don't always have the time to visit the Office," she said.

"Other than suggesting a few programs, they didn't do much for me. I was left on my own to complete the applications and all the proper forms," Bauman said.

Similarly, "the Office didn't really do that much for me other than answering administrative



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Seeun Choi, Jamen Tyler, Sharon Chesney and Lauri Citti helped change study abroad policies at Hopkins.

questions," sophomore Kevin Park, an International Studies and history double major said.

"I wish the Office had a list of students going abroad each semester. I was and still am looking for someone to sublet my apartment. It would only require the students to fill out a form with name, contact information, term abroad, and if housing is needed upon return."

Citti explained that the Office is still at its initial stage and that there is "a lot of infrastructure." She encourages students to meet with Chesney, as well as the five student assistants.

As far as the future goes, Citti anticipates a large set of approved programs will be available to students to help ensure proper credit transfer and course fulfillment when they return home.

Saving lives after Hurricane Katrina

By ANNE FABER
News-Letter Staff Writer

When Juliette Saussy learned that Hurricane Katrina would hit New Orleans, she began to pray.

It was not standard procedure for the New Orleans medical director, but the situation was anything but typical.

Like when Saussy had to tell a mother to put her child in a shoebox so she could find the body later.

Or making the tough decision to hang up on a woman after spending 20 minutes on the phone trying to help fix her oxygen tank.

"That haunts me to this day," Saussy said during a speech at Hopkins on Thursday.

At the start of her speech Monday night, Saussy joked that she went into public service for the uniform.

On a more serious note, she added, "When you think about public service, you think, 'what have I done with my life and what have I given back?'"

Since 1984, Saussy has been a member of the city's Emergency Medical Service (EMS).

She went on to become the Chief Medical Officer of Homeland Security and Public Safety in New Orleans, a position she had held for only six months before Katrina struck.

As she began to tell her story, Saussy wanted to make it clear that, "my organization is about one hundred people. Here were some issues with police not showing up. All of my guys showed up."

At 11:00 on the night Katrina hit, her organization of EMTs could no longer respond to 911 calls because ambulances were flooded and hospitals could no longer take patients.

"We shut the system down," she said.

Even though they could not send help, Saussy's group of EMTs continued to answer police dispatch calls through the night. Eventually they lost all communication as telephone and radio lines were submerged in the flooding.

"The only method of communication was swimming or walking. We did a lot of walking," Saussy joked.

With this mass chaos, Saussy described seeing a societal breakdown where "I can take anything



MARIE CUSHING/NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Saussy spoke of her experiences in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit, which caused damages that are still being repaired nearly three years later.

I wanted, kill anyone I wanted, and there are no rules."

Prisoners at a maximum security prison had taken over the prison. People in the Superdome had begun to kill each other. Civilians had started shooting at police and EMTs and firemen.

With these news reports and rumors pouring in — many of which later turned out to be false — safety became a concern.

Now those helping needed protection.

"There's nothing scarier than seeing a fireman with a gun," said Saussy as the audience laughed.

More seriously, she explained why she thought these incidents happened. "I don't believe they were shooting at the people who were trying to help them. They were shooting so that people knew where they were," Saussy said.

Throughout this struggle for survival, rescue workers were continually looking for more help and more resources.

Saussy gave a humorous example of this when she showed a picture of a postal truck with EMS scrawled on the side. "I don't even run red lights, but I hotwired a postal truck for EMS," she said.

With their stolen trucks, Saussy and her fellow workers began helping people again from a base at Our Lady of Wisdom Chapel, located in a nursing home.

She was in charge and her workers looked to her for answers. They had almost no sup-

plies and many didn't know if their families were OK.

All Saussy could say was she knew they had food and that they had to do their jobs.

"Part of being a public servant is recognizing your limits as a human being. You don't get magical qualities," she said.

In the end, there was hope, which came in the form of six emergency helicopters that Saussy called "the most glorious sight in the world."

She spoke highly of Lieutenant General Russel Honore, who came to New Orleans and helped coordinate two landing pads so the helicopters could aid in medical assistance.

Soon they began using boats, high-water vehicles and ambulances once again to rescue those in need of medical attention.

Looking back, Saussy felt that the Katrina disaster was as far reaching because there was no decision-making at the time of the crisis.

She outlined the critical mishaps of the event, listing poor communication, no chain of command and no long-term plan as the major problems.

Saussy also stressed the importance of leadership that will make decisions. "There has to be someone in charge," she said.

Her ultimate message was one of inspiration.

"What is it at the end of the day that you want your life to look like? Because if it's for money, glory [or] renown, public service is probably not for you. But if it isn't, I hope you won't let those things deter you," she said.

Saussy was invited to speak by the Institute for Policy Studies as part of their ongoing "Revitalizing Government Services" discussion series. Event co-sponsors included the Center for Public Health Awareness and the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

New student loan bill protects financial aid

By HEATHER BARBAKOFF
News & Features Editor

New legislation hopes to keep the rocky state of U.S. credit markets from preventing the granting of financial aid to parents and students.

The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (H.R. 5715), recently approved by the House of Representatives, will expand new protections to those already present under the current law.

These protections will guarantee that families will continue to have access to federal college loans, despite lenders' growing reluctance to give out private loans.

Director of the Office of Student Financial Services Vincent Amoroso recently attended a symposium addressing the issues of student loans.

He observed that the perceived student loan crisis "actually is more real than ... some people initially were thinking."

"We have students at Johns Hopkins, really just like at any other school, where even after we give them everything that they're eligible for in terms of financial aid, and that includes loans, they still need additional funding," Amoroso said.

Hopkins's status as a direct lending school means that both undergraduate and graduate students are borrowing subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans and plus loans directly from the federal government.

The issues surrounding cash loan availability for lenders will not really affect Hopkins students because of this process.

Students at the University will instead feel the strain brought on by the current financial situation only through the private loan sector.

Additional funds may be needed to cover expected payment contribution, but if all other resources from the University and federal loan programs have already been overextended, then students will have to delve in to a private loan program or find some other sort of personal financing.

When it comes to the fact that certain loaners may not be able to provide families with the same sort of financial help as they had in the past, Amoroso said, "I don't think we're at the place yet where there is not going to be a place to go. It's just, it may not be the place to go that you're used to going to."

Bank of America Corp. announced on April 17 that it would be stopping its private student loan products but will continue to provide government-backed student loans.

The bank reported that its products comprised less than 15 percent of the total \$6 billion in student loans the company provided in 2007.

The largest and most popular student lender, SLM Corp. or Sallie Mae, predicted that it might not be able to make profitable loans at this time and stated a first-quarter loss earlier this week.

"Under current conditions, however, loans can only be made at an economic loss. Reflecting this environment, the company is assessing how best to balance its resources and its mission to

provide access for higher education," said Beth Guerard, a Sallie Mae spokesperson.

The University's status as a direct lending school will somewhat cushion the effects of Sallie Mae's poor performance.

According to Amoroso, the percentage of families at Hopkins who need to borrow money from a lender is very small; the majority of those students will use a direct-loan program under government funding.

"In our opinion, the least disruptive, most cost-effective, most controllable and quickest proposal to implement would be for the Department of Treasury's Federal Financing Bank to provide liquidity for federally guaranteed loans," Jack Remondi, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Sallie Mae, said in congressional testimony.

The bill, which was passed by a vote of 383 to 27 in the House, will not create additional costs for taxpayers.

Department of Education spokesperson Jane Glickman declined to comment, referring instead to a previously-released written statement.

It was stated that "The administration is committed to ensuring that students and their parents have access to the Federal student aid they need to pay for college this fall."

The Department of Education is also making preparations for the Direct Loan and Lender-of-Last-Resort (LIR) programs to be enacted if they are necessary. H.R. 5715 would give authorization to the Secretary of Education to buy Federal Family Education Loans.

CORRECTIONS

In the April 17 issue of the *News-Letter*, on page B11, the article entitled "Root for your home team: baseball on a hot streak" should have been credited to Mike Porambo.

The *News-Letter* regrets the error.

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NEWS & FEATURES

A look into Baltimore's past with retiring Prof. Matthew Crenson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
they let students blow off their steam and come back.

N-L: Was that when things started to heat up on campus politically?

MC: That year was really just terrible. Martin Luther King was assassinated, the war, the Kent State shootings — a lot of American history packed into one year. There was a real upsurge in student interest in politics, and the issues were sort of global in scale. It wasn't just Vietnam — race was a major issue in the country.

N-L: So would you say that the riots localized a larger issue?

MC: Absolutely. This is significant of Baltimore. Mobilization of African Americans in a city is usually instigated by something — here it was instigated by Martin Luther King's assassination. There were several after-effects. Although whites had been moving out for a long time, the riots really sped up the exodus. The school population in Baltimore now is 88 percent African American.

Before the Civil War, Baltimore had the biggest concentration of free black people in the United States. That meant that they had a long head start toward building a separate set of institutions. While it was an asset for some, different social organizations created leaders who competed with each other. African Americans became the majority [in Baltimore], but it took them 15 years to elect one as mayor.

N-L: What helped Baltimore transition and recover?

MC: William Donald Schaefer was a good mayor for that time — he had the kind of energy and was demanding on city government. He was upbeat about the city's future and became a kind of cheerleader for Baltimore. He made people think things were changing in Baltimore when they weren't. Manufacturing jobs were leaving — it's only now that city is beginning to re-

cover.

N-L: Do you think students were aware of what was going on at the time?

MC: They were aware. That's why they showed up to class, and I used to teach a whole section on riots. But this was still a pretty insular campus, maybe more than it is today. I began to teach neighborhood politics, where I sent students out to be researchers in neighborhoods around campus. I ended up writing a book about it. I did a survey of 21 neighborhoods in Baltimore.

I began of a lot of efforts to get students off the campus. It

was around this time that some one funded an internship program that I was the director of. We would send students out to be interns to members of the Baltimore City Council, which evolved into [a program] that's run by Institute for Policy Studies.

Students did some remarkable things. One student was an intern to a city councilman who was going to be out of country for most of his campaign — he became his campaign manager. Another couple of students drew up a redistricting plan that was later adopted. One of them got into trouble because he was at a hearing and someone was testifying and he knew the guy was lying. There was a big blow-up over that, don't take that on yourself.

Another student who wasn't really an intern but was doing an independent study with me wrote a paper on the "invisible government" of Baltimore. There was an operation where guys would take federal grant funds for development and lend them out.

When the money came back they would start making loans at

their own discretion. There was some agreement with the board of estimates which the mayor ran.

This student uncovered this subterranean government that never came up before. The newspaper here turned it into a series, and the student was called to testify in front of a committee and was threatened to be sued. What they did was ruin a political career. He came here as political activist but became disillusioned.

N-L: How close did the riots get to Hopkins?

MC: They got as close as 25th

Street — a place where there was unusual confrontation between blacks and whites. Local stations decided not to report it because they didn't want people converging... it

was scary.

I was in Washington and they sent us home from work early. There were white drivers listening to the news and watching smoke on 14th Street, expecting a mob to come out at any moment and start attacking the cars. I saw burned down buildings.

The number of African-American students [at Hopkins] before the riots was fairly small. I talked to some later who said they felt like outsiders and didn't feel they had been fully integrated into the University.

One of the founders of Black Student Union said they were angry. This didn't change much — they were still a small minority. It took a long time to increase the numbers of underrepresented minorities. I hope it's better today; we certainly have more than we used to have. The Baltimore scholars program is something we do for the city of Baltimore.

N-L: How do you think Baltimore has changed since the time of the riots, and how has political awareness changed, if at all?

MC: Race is still the big subterranean issue in Baltimore. People talk about it but in private. It gets very little attention in the political system. I came across [the writings of] a guy who visited [the city of Baltimore] in 1840 — he heard less about race and slavery in Baltimore than in any other place.

There's that tendency to avoid [talking about] it. Now that black people and white people live in different jurisdictions, there's even less occasion to raise the issue of race.

N-L: What was your most rewarding experience during your time here at Hopkins?

MC: There are so many of them. The experience of watching students open up when they discover there's a place beyond campus.

One student studying Hampden in my Neighborhoods class moved to Hampden after course was over. The students became co-editors of the community newspaper in Hampden. Some students really became part of the communities they were studying.

I developed the connection over time. Coming back was a



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Matthew Crenson taught at Hopkins for 40 years has chosen to retire this year.

little difficult since I was 26 and still had my hair. When I walked into the classroom people didn't pay attention to me because they thought I was a student — that's when I started to wear a coat and tie. I have to say it was a bit scary for me.

I took small classes before at MIT, but these were huge ones. The second year I was here, I was assigned to teach Introduction to Political Science. I did it for seven straight years. I had 300 students. I felt that I had sort of come home.

SECURITY ALERTS

April 20, 3:07 a.m.:

A senior undergraduate male punched the passenger side mirror of a parked car on E. 33rd Street. He was stopped by two officers, but the owner of the vehicle did not want police involvement. The student agreed to pay for damages to the vehicle.

April 20, between 5:47 p.m. and 5:50 p.m.:

By the Homewood Field, a junior undergraduate was approached from behind by seven juveniles on bicycles, some of whom made rude remarks to her and two of whom slapped her on the buttocks as they rode past. The Baltimore police responded and the investigation is continuing.

April 21, 6:30 a.m.:

An elderly non-affiliated female was found in the upstairs bedroom of a row house in the 200 block W. 31st Street. The official cause of death has not been determined, but investigators found a number of stab wounds to the upper body. The investigation is ongoing.

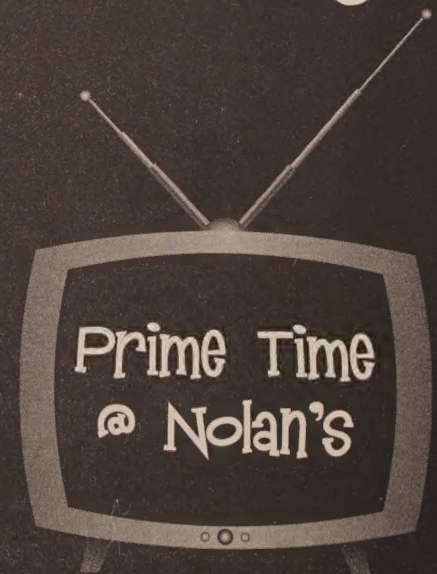
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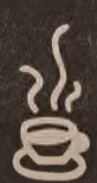
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NEWS & FEATURES

Prof. speaks on LGBT discrimination

By MING WEN
News-Letter Staff Writer

Awareness of the difficulties lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) individuals face has increased in the last 20 years, but much more progress remains to be made, according to Professor Jen Hayashi of the Hopkins School of Medicine.

Hayashi, an assistant professor of geriatric medicine at Bayview Hospital, discussed the issues facing both patients and care providers in a speech on Monday.

Hayashi discussed a wide range of topics including homophobia and heterosexism in the medical field, methods of dealing with discrimination, and her own personal experiences.

"I can tell you at Bayview when I came to geriatrics I had never felt any iota of being treated or seen differently," she said.

In 1982, 70 percent of respondents said highly qualified LGBT individuals should be admitted to residencies. By 1992, this number had increased to 98 percent. While polls certainly show a dramatic increase in acceptance of LGBT individuals, it is still difficult to gauge the real progress that has been made in attitudes in the medical field, due to individuals becoming more closed-mouthed and hesitant to voice their true opinions, according to Hayashi.

Hayashi described her own coming-out experience in detail. By trying to fit in she suspected

she was not like everyone, suspicions which developed into much more by the third year of medical school. By a twist of fate, the one man she dated in college turned out to be gay. Originally planning to be a Navy doctor for life, Hayashi was hit by the realization of what that entailed.

"I was just busy taking care of patients, taking care of life, so I didn't notice all the Navy lip service stuff. The longer I stayed here the longer I was going to be like those people and I couldn't deal with it," she said.

For Hayashi, it was essential that she find a residency that accepted her as a lesbian. Among the choices that were open and accepting was an opening at Hopkins.

"I got trapped because Hopkins is a really fun place to work," Hayashi said.

She said that her sexuality did not impact her job placement opportunities, but it did impact her day-to-day mental well-being and her sense of self.

Hayashi spend significant time in the speech discussing the studies on sexual awareness in the medical field which have been undertaken in the last two decades. Many studies confirm the fact that medical students are afraid to tell others that they are gay, in part because of perceived risks of negative effects on their grades or their residencies. In the most "touchy" specialty, family medicine, 25 percent of directors said they would be hesitant to accept openly gay students into

their programs.

She mentioned a study of internal medicine residents reported half of them had heard or witnessed homophobic events or remarks in the workplace.

According to Hayashi, support groups are not necessarily a good place for LGBT individuals to come out due to the focus of coping with the arduous training of such groups. Because of this, LGBT physicians run an increased risk of losing referrals and employment.

For patients, the wear and tear of coming out to new people is an often overlooked aspect of the LGBT doctor-patient relationship. Homophobia and heterosexism harm both patients and caregivers. For patients, it is hard to make a difference. In such cases, Hayashi encouraged active intervention when even minimal discrimination is present. To illustrate this concept, she suggested that a form asking for marital status simply include the options single, married or divorced.

"You can say it doesn't have to be like that. It can be more inclusive. This does not make me feel welcome. This does not make me want to come to [this hospital]. When people fill in that blank with something that is not an M or an F it gives the doctor an opportunity to talk to that person," Professor Hayashi said.

The reception of students in attendance, the majority of whom were LGBT individuals interested in the issues that they will have to deal with in their future careers, was unabashedly positive.

"I viewed it as an accurate portrayal of LGBT patients and physicians. It highlights the discrimination the community does have to face out there in the world. We're still waiting for that one day when you can just be respected for being human regardless of your sex orientation," said Keshav Khanijow, president of the JHU Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance.

Hayashi's speech instilled in students a sense of the importance of LGBT issues in health care.

"I felt that a lot needs to be done and that it's an issue that people don't know about and don't necessarily think is an important issue. I thought the presentation was really cool because a lot of people showed up and they got to hear about this issue that matters to a lot of people," said sophomore Karen Chen, who attended the speech.



JOHN PRENDERGRASS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The administration is planning to convert the Charles and Blackstone apartment buildings into on-campus housing options.

Housing plan may build new complex

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
are looking for in an on-campus housing experience, Hopkins housing is significantly more expensive than off-campus housing. He also noted that the lower cost of living off-campus can help to alleviate the financial burden of increased tuition.

According to Bierbryer, sophomores were not required to live on campus before 1992. The requirement of sophomore on-campus housing was due to the sheer number of beds bought by the University, including in McCoy and Bradford.

Bierbryer was concerned that a similar situation would occur again, potentially making on-campus housing mandatory for juniors and seniors.

"Making on-campus housing mandatory takes away from the appeal to live in an urban university setting," Bierbryer said.

According to Burger, the baseball field is the best option for a freshman complex. This spot would give the freshmen living in this quad the opportunity to live in an AMR-inspired building.

The University also considered building a freshmen complex placed directly on the green in the current freshman quad, but Burger was not keen on the idea. She pointed to the potential "tunneling effect" the new building would create with Remsen and Dunning Halls, and the Biology

East Building, especially since the open freshman quad is one of the more popular and beautiful spots on campus.

Hopkins is currently looking into potential sites for the possible new location of the baseball field since the team would need another field.

Baseball coach Bob Babb said that the University has mentioned the housing plans to him, but will not follow plans for another eight to 10 years.

Although Babb says the current baseball arrangement is more convenient, he views the prospect of moving with some optimism, stating that a new baseball field could include lights, parking and better seating, therefore making way for tournaments.

Hopkins denied 269 upperclassmen for on-campus housing this year, compared to the 354 that were denied last year. Mohr said that Wolman is large enough to provide housing for all upperclassmen who were denied.

This year 469 upperclassmen registered for room selection, which is down from the 693 upperclassmen who registered last year.

Mohr said she believes that this year's decline in upperclassmen applying for on-campus housing comes from the University's announcement that less space was available for them.

"Many students got discouraged at the small number of upperclassmen housing spaces and didn't even bother entering the lottery this year, thinking that they were better off pairing up with friends for an off-campus arrangement than holding on or something that was such a long shot," Burger said.

Charles Commons has given Hopkins much needed space for social interaction for the entire campus, according to Burger, but this change has not solved the housing problem. Although Charles Commons opened to students in August 2006, Burger is still completing the fundraising that was required to build Charles Commons.

"A university's residential program plays a major role in building community, something that we are committed to strengthening at Hopkins, and an issue that was a theme throughout the Commission's report," Burger said, referring to the Commission for Undergraduate Education (CUE) Report.

Burger said Hopkins has not been in the position for the last few years to take on more debt in order to address the remaining housing need.

The University is still dealing with debts accrued from its recent projects, like the renovations of Gilman and Levering, the improvement of the dining facilities and the construction of Charles Commons, which were all undertaken to address the concerns of the CUE report.

These various extensions and improvements of the Homewood campus have left Burger commit-

ted to raising \$10 million.

"We continue to hear from parents who are frustrated that we cannot accommodate their sons and daughters in University housing," Burger said.

According to Mohr, Hopkins could renovate North Charles Street to allow for a more social environment and concentrate upperclassmen undergraduates in McCoy, the Charles, Wolman, the Blackstone and Charles Commons. Homewood and Bradford would be then used for graduate-student housing options.

The idea for the freshman complex was primarily influenced by the fact that the incoming students who chose to live in Wolman did not have the same social environment as students situated in the AMR Buildings.

Having an AMR-style living environment for all students in their first years would make for a more cohesive campus-life with the development of tighter friendships and a class bond that many other institutions have, according to Burger.

"Collaboration on the question of 'why isn't our community stronger?' led us to conclude that it really has a lot to do to our limited residential options," Burger said. "This, in turn, brought about the reasoning for looking at housing for upperclassmen who wanted it and making a freshmen quad-rangle."

According to Burger, the AMRs offer a perfectly sized dormitory, organized "laterally versus vertically, where the stairs are mode of transportation versus the elevators."

With news of changes in the housing plans, upperclassmen have an almost "allergic" reaction to being subjected to the myth that Hopkins wants them to live on-campus, according to Burger.

"We are not trying to force upperclassmen to live on campus, but to give the option to students and their families," she said, noting that this goal was a vital part of the CUE report.

Other apartment buildings off-campus will be impacted by the move to popularize on-campus housing. Mike Thompson, the general manager of the Northway apartment building, said that 70 percent of the building is comprised of Hopkins students.

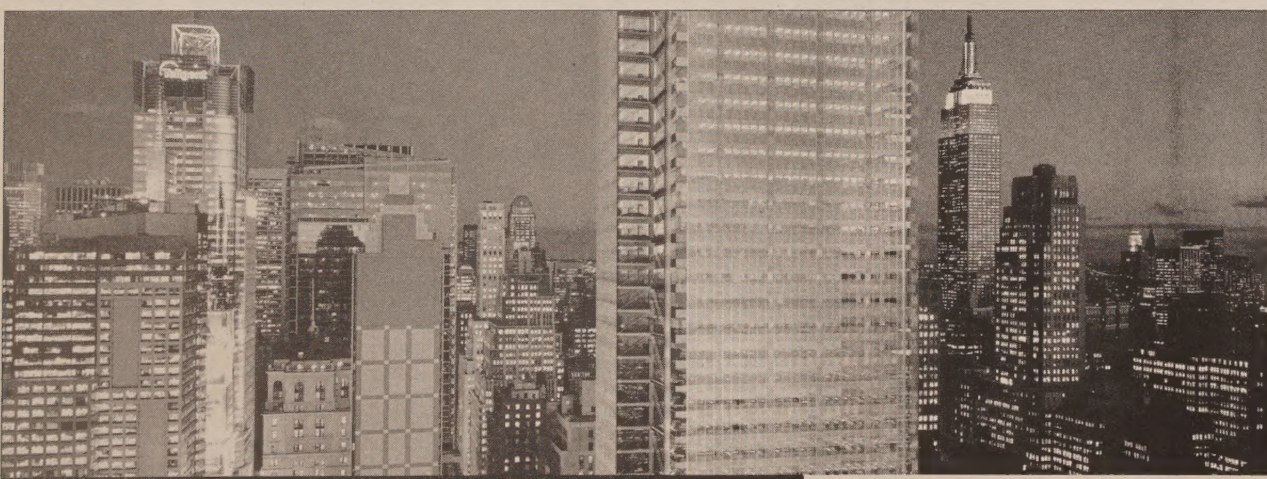
Burger mentioned that Hopkins has options for potential high-rise lots, but said this move would not produce the environment that this project is trying to achieve. Hopkins is still awaiting the plans from the hired architects before making a final decision.

"Master planners along with the University has made this move into a 25-year plan than one quick swoop due to the sheer amount of philanthropy and financial burdens that Hopkins is facing that they must overcome to look to the future of the new freshmen quad," Burger said.



CONOR KEVIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Hopkins professor Jen Hayashi spoke about her experience in the medical world.



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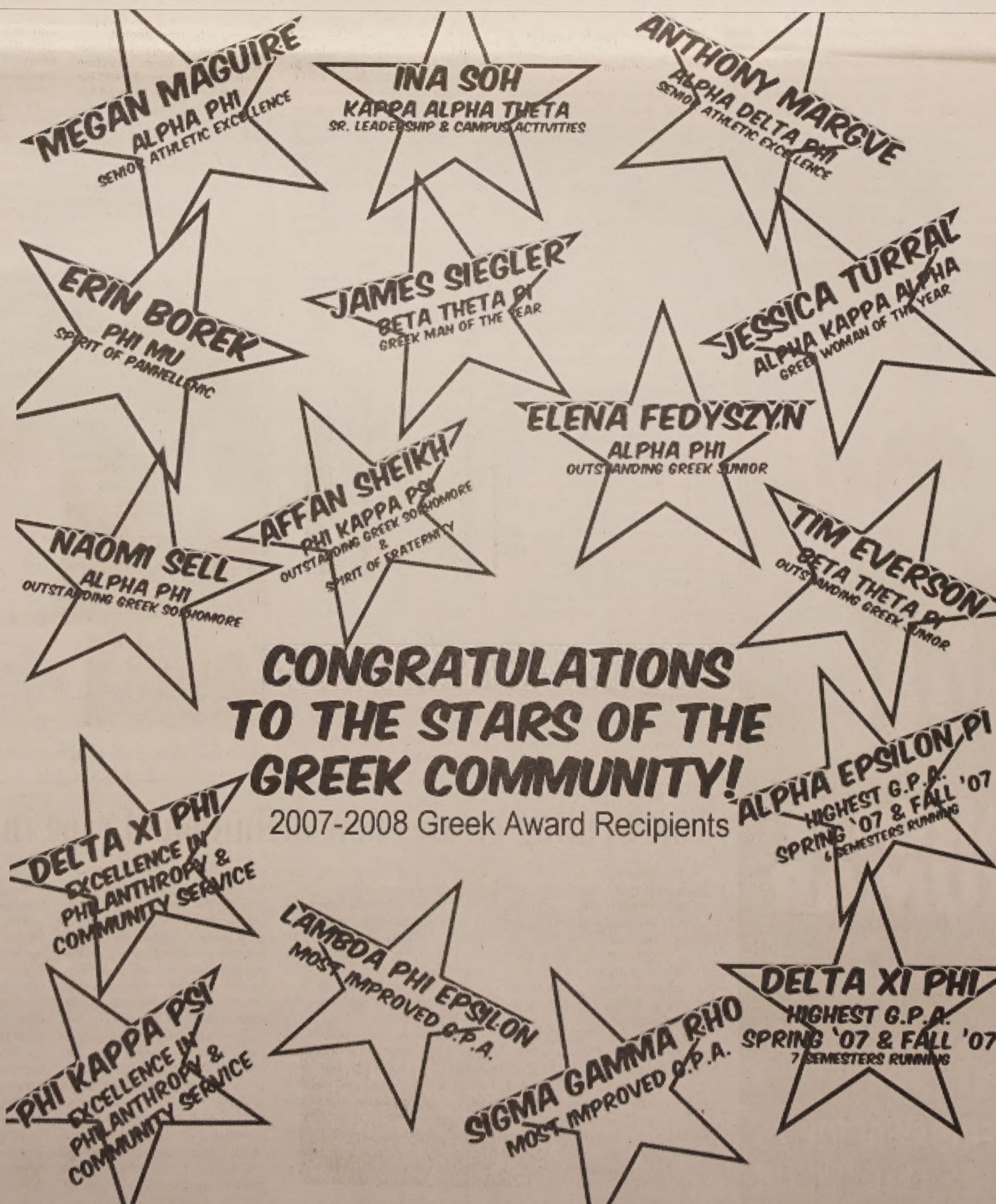
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NEWS & FEATURES

Five years later, few CUE changes implemented

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
space for intramural practices was eaten away. The only space that remains other than the practice field, Leslie said, is the freshman quad and the volleyball court next to AMR I.

According to Brody, the University is taking steps toward solving this problem in the near future, constructing a new track and improving the field on the Eastern campus, as well as planning to add turf to the new Decker Quad to provide more space for casual sports competitions and practices.

The CUE report also recommended that within the next 10 years, the University develop more residence halls to guarantee on-campus housing for all undergraduate students for all four years of their education.

Five years after the report was issued, students are still only guaranteed housing for their first two years.

"This issue is certainly one that I hear from parents about, and I remain hopeful that we can develop a plan to provide this opportunity for those who want it. I think it would make a difference in the sense of community for undergraduates," Brody wrote.

Though four-year guaranteed housing may not be in the immediate future, the University has achieved several key objectives, including providing additional sophomore housing through the construction of Charles Commons, completed in 2006. According to CUE chairwoman Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost Paula Burger, Charles Commons was built with the dual purpose of providing additional housing for upperclassmen and encouraging social interaction and group study, two important recommendations of the CUE report.

"I think the CUE report galvanized the commitment to [build Charles Commons]," Burger said. "We said it would address the need to strengthen the community. CUE created interest and support."

Professor Stephen David, another committee member, agreed.

"My own view is that the best thing to come out of CUE was the recognition that we needed more student housing, which eventually led to the creation of Charles Commons. Having students liv-

ing together has helped create a much stronger sense of community, something long overdue at Hopkins," he wrote in an e-mail.

Coupled with the commission's recommendation to build up residence halls was its recommendation to improve student social life in the Charles Village area as well as social programming in on-campus residence halls.

"The idea was to create a college town feel to [Charles Village]," Leslie said, "though it hasn't succeeded well."

Leslie points to the empty space that used to house Xando's and TGI-Friday's as examples of the failed attempts to create a more student-friendly college scene.

With the building of Charles Commons, "we've jumped across Charles Street; in that respect we're integrated into Charles Village much more," he said. "However, we're still not there yet. We're still pretty isolated from the surrounding area."

Another important recommendation from the CUE report focused on creating open spaces for students to study in groups or socialize. The commission, however, did not support the creation of a student union, and construction of a central student center remains unlikely.

Brody defended the commission's view.

"The concept of a single 'student union' is a throwback to the large eating facility coupled with some common meeting rooms that characterized the large public universities," he said.

There is some evidence that going to a single student union will not necessarily foster the building of a stronger community," he wrote.

Instead of creating a central hub, the committee recommendation focused on creating more "hangout space" on and around campus, which has been realized in Charles Commons, Barnes and Noble, and the Mattin Center, as well as through the planned renovations to Gilman Hall. Burger also anticipates increasing social space in Wolman.

In the academic sphere, CUE has experienced more success in implementing several key concrete changes.

Expanding support for the study abroad office has increased



JOHN PRENDERGRASS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Recommendations made in the CUE report included changes to area housing.

Hopkins's international focus, while the Baltimore Scholars Program, designed to provide full financial aid to accepted students from Baltimore's city schools, will welcome its fourth class this fall.

The CUE recommendation to create undergraduate studies directors has been implemented, ensuring that students have a specific professor from whom they can ask advice.

"I think it's given us a set of people with formal responsibility. They take their position seriously," Burger said. "They are the go-to person when we have an issue."

Creating the position of Vice Provost, the title that Burger holds now, was also a result of CUE.

"What the committee thought was that there should be a single point of accountability that brought together the academic and social experience of undergraduates," Burger said.

Burger meets with the undergraduate studies directors several times a year with the goal of improving communication between majors and departments.

In the meetings, the directors discuss various steps they are undertaking to improve the undergraduate experience, including planned changes to course approvals, the writing program and writing intensive courses.

Recently the directors have taken an interest in early textbook adoptions, which would give the campus bookstore more time to order used textbooks and lower student textbook costs.

Professor Bruce Hamilton was the head of the academic experience subcommittee. He is not convinced that the creation of the position was necessary.

"Frankly, what the recommendation did was to formalize what the [economics] department was already doing," he said.

Hamilton attributes the increased communication between major departments, and between professors and students, more to the ease of communication via e-mail than to the appointment of an official director.

One of the more controversial recommendations included in the CUE report was the change from a Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday to a Monday-Wednesday-Friday class-scheduling system.

"Hopkins was being called a commuter campus, and five

courses in three days contribute to stress level," Burger said. A change of schedule, according to Burger, makes more effective use of classrooms, spreads classes out, keeps students engaged on-campus and puts Hopkins in synch with Bloomberg and Peabody.

Some students, however, are discontent with the new schedule.

"I've heard both sides of this," Burger said. "Students regret not having such long weekends, but then, the perception of stuff happening on weekends is easier to have when your student body is here [the whole week]. But the jury's still out."

The freshman undergraduate experience at Hopkins received special attention from the commission, who expressed a desire to improve first-year academics by offering smaller classes and a more seamless transition into college life.

"The freshman book discussion was initiated in the spirit of the report with an interest in facilitating students coming together around issues," Burger said. "Similarly, we did a humanities colloquium where students were engaged in small groups; we invited all first-year students to participate."

Other changes in freshman course offerings include the B'more Intersession program, which exposes students to a particular area in Baltimore that relates to an area of academic interest.

Additionally, several departments, including the biology department, also offered small freshman seminars.

In most departments, the push toward smaller class sizes has met with mixed results.

Though some departments with large introductory courses compensate with smaller sections, freshmen still face much larger class sizes as departmental tendencies lean toward using extra resources to create more upper-level courses.

As Hamilton pointed out, "cutting enrollment from a class of 440 to two classes of 220 doesn't accomplish very much."

"It's really a trade-off between offering more classes for first-year students and offering smaller upper level courses for juniors and seniors," Burger said.

For now, freshmen enrolled in introductory classes like microeconomics or organic chemistry will have to be content only with small sections.

Candido Brown overcomes on way to state recognition

By STEPHANIE BENCA
For The News-Letter

Having overcome a difficult childhood plagued by drug-selling friends and drug-using family members, senior Candido Brown was determined to be different.

"At the time [in elementary school] my mother was abusing drugs, my adopted brothers were selling them, and my foolish friends were buying."

"I innocently watched as these actions took place, hoping that one day the people that I loved would change. Even though they didn't, I did," Brown said.

Brown, a sociology major, was recently honored as both the JHU Student Employee of the Year and the Maryland Student Employee of the Year.

Recognized for his dedicated work in the Public Relations Department within the Office of Admissions, he was awarded a \$1,000 savings bond and a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Baltimore from Mayor Sheila Dixon.

Employers nominated student employees based on reliability, initiative, disposition, quality of work and contribution. Brown was one of these 42 students.

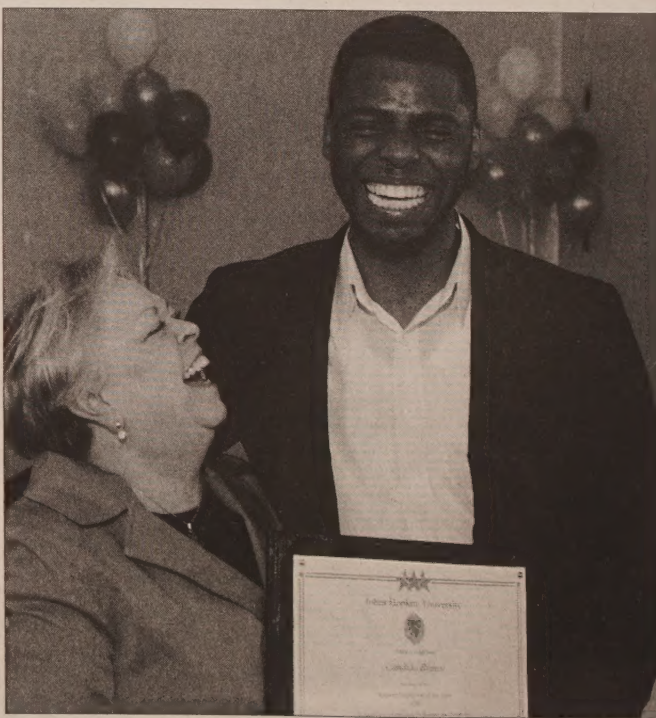
A panel of pre-selected judges reviewed nominations and ranked candidates according to a point system.

According to Ruth Scally, the assistant director of Student Employment Services, once Brown had been selected as the Hopkins Student Employee of the Year, his nomination was then forwarded to the regional Student Employment Association, where it later became one of the entries for the State of Maryland.

As nomination entries were submitted from a plethora of Maryland universities and colleges, Brown was selected to be the recipient of the state of Maryland's award.

"While I was not expecting to receive an award of this magnitude, I believe I was granted this honor because it is my professionalism, meticulousness and work ethic that sets me apart from them [other student employees]," Brown said.

"I also work 20 hours a week, most holidays and Saturday sessions — something many students won't do."



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK.
Candido Brown celebrated winning Maryland Student Employee of the Year.

Court ruling creates new definition of rape in Maryland

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
confusion surrounding the right to withdraw consent.

This will be the third trial for the accused, Maouloud Baby.

In December 2003, Baby, then 15, began engaging in sex with the alleged victim, who at the time was enrolled in Montgomery College.

According to police, the woman consented on the condition that he stop when she told him to. After penetration, she told him to stop because he was hurting her.

Testimony from the alleged victim in the original 2004 trial states that Baby continued for five or 10 seconds before ending penetration.

"I yelled stop, that it hurt, and

I was pushing him off me," the alleged victim testified.

Baby was originally convicted of first-degree rape and other crimes, and was sentenced to 15 years in prison with all but five suspended.

The Maryland Court of Special Appeals then overturned the conviction.

Their decision was based on a 1980 ruling by the state's highest court, which said that post-penetration withdrawal of consent is not considered rape under Maryland law.

The choice to reevaluate the Baby case has called into question the circumstances of Maryland common-law rape.

Maryland criminal law defines

rape in the first degree as "vaginal intercourse with another by force, or the threat of force, without the consent of the other."

"I think the court of appeals brought along into line with what many people in society already believe, that you are permitted to say no and your partner should respect that," Jordan said.

But some believe that the issue has been altered from the original case into a broader argument over a woman's right to consent.

"I think that as a matter of law, a second delay should not, cannot be considered rape. The court did not draw a distinction between the five-second delay and a violent attack," said Mel Feit, direc-

tor of the National Center for Men, an activist group located in Long Island, N.Y.

The new law will not affect Hopkins current policies regarding sexual assault.

According to Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell, a student coming forth with a complaint after the decision will trigger the same investigation as before.

The University investigates the claims through a judicial process, with a disciplinary hearing to decide responsibility or non-responsibility.

With the decision, Maryland joins with seven other states whose court systems have also agreed to a woman's right to revoke consent.

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NEWS & FEATURES

News in Brief

Hopkins donor Virginia Decker dies at age 91

Educational philanthropist Virginia Decker, whose donations helped fund the creation of the Decker Quadrangle, died on April 11 at the age of 91.

Decker served as the director of the University's School of Continuing Studies.

The Maryland native was the widow of Black & Decker founder Alonzo Decker.

"Over many years, her dedication, passion for education and generous spirit have helped transform Johns Hopkins in amazing ways," University President William Brody said in a statement released on Monday.

Decker had been recuperating from injuries sustained in a fall.

— Marie Cushing

Arts Innovation Program grants funds to faculty and students

In order to promote the arts on the Homewood campus, Hopkins has given about \$25,000 in grants to faculty and students.

The Arts Innovation Program was initiated in 2006 in order to help fund the creation of new courses in the undergraduate arts program.

These programs must encourage interdisciplinary courses as well as interaction with the Baltimore community.

Three courses will benefit from the funding. The course *Camera Arts: Photographing Evergreen Museum & Library* will be taught by Phyllis Berger of the Homewood Arts Workshops and Evergreen curator James Archer Abbott.

Students will use digital photography to incorporate the architecture and collections of the



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

The financial contributions of Virginia Decker helped create the Decker Quadrangle.

Evergreen Museum into their work.

In a Film and Media Studies course called *Arts, Hypermedia, Community: Creating an Online Multimedia Arts Journal for Baltimore and Beyond*, students will collaborate with artists and activists in the Baltimore community on a new online journal of arts and culture called *Radar Redux*.

In spring 2009, *Close Looking at the BMA: Van Dyck's Rinaldo and Armida* will be taught by Museums and Society Program Director Elizabeth Rodini.

The course hopes to engage students in in-depth studies of works of art as they prepare a new interpretive program for the museum's audience.

Three students will also receive support for their arts-related initiatives.

Senior Corey Sattler, leader of the Student Art League, is receiving support for this weekend's Spring Fair Art Show, where student artworks will be showcased.

Senior Liz Eldridge, a Writing Seminars major and Theatre Arts and Studies minor, is receiving funding for the production of four plays celebrating the work of poet Russell Edson scheduled

for July 2008.

Freshmen Neil Albstein and Jeremy Garson are producing a comedy film series that will be shown in the Merrick Barn in the fall of 2008.

— Doyeun Kim

Hopkins eyesight research could help insomniacs

A recent discovery by a Hopkins biologist could help those suffering from insomnia and seasonal affective disorder.

Assistant Professor Samer Hattar found that the part of the eye dedicated to using light to reset the biological clock is completely separate from the area controlling sight.

Hattar hoped that this discovery will make it easier to test if those suffering from these disorders are having trouble properly adjusting to light.

Researchers will continue studying how light functions in the eyes of other animals, focusing on the distinction between light absorption and image creation.

— Marie Cushing

In Other College News

Student claims art project includes self-induced miscarriages

A controversial senior art project that claims to document a year of self-induced miscarriages has been the center of debate at Yale University.

Aliza Shvarts said that she artificially inseminated herself as many times as possible over a nine-month period and then consumed abortifacient herbs at the end of her menstrual cycle to induce miscarriages.

Although the University maintains that the exhibit is a farce and that Shvarts did not actually impregnate herself, there is no determining evidence in Shvarts's videos to prove whether or not she did perform self-abortions.

While Shvarts's project has been defended based on the artist's freedom of expression, the project has stunned and enraged many student groups on campus as well as the administration.

The exhibition, which features the videos of her miscarrying projected onto a cube covered in Vaseline, will not be exhibited at the University unless it is proven that Shvarts's claims are fiction.

— Phyllis Zhu

New bill would grant TAs right to form labor unions

Democrats in Congress introduced a bill that would grant graduate student teaching assistants at private institutions the right to form labor unions.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., introduced the legislation in both chambers of Congress in order to clarify National Labor Relations Board guidelines.

A 2004 ruling by the Board said that assistants at Brown University were students, not employees, and were thus not allowed protection under federal labor law.

But the same board had ruled four years earlier that New York University teaching assistants could unionize.

— Marie Cushing

Proposed tax cuts in California met with student protests

Thousands of students marched at the California state capital on Monday in protest over proposed budget changes that would cut \$1 billion from the public college system.

The "March for Higher Education" also included politicians and faculty.

For several hours, protestors stood on the capital steps. There, speakers suggested that funding for the education system should come through tax increases for the wealthy.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he would not increase taxes, but will present a revised budget on May 14.

Cuts would affect California State University, University of California and California Community College.

— Marie Cushing

Creighton Univ. to allow alcohol sales on campus

Nebraska's Creighton University was granted a liquor license for a new on-campus restaurant.

The request was met with protest because state law prohibits alcohol sales at public colleges, but the private Jesuit institution was granted an exception.

Opponents worry this will be seen as encouraging underage drinking, but the school will institute identification scanning, mandatory wristbands and other restrictions.

— Marie Cushing

No arrests made during Colorado Univ. marijuana celebration

Ten thousand students gathered at Colorado University on Sunday to celebrate the annual counterculture holiday "4/20."

The mass gathering of pot-smokers on April 20 has become



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.CITY-DATA.COM
Creighton University will begin to sell alcohol on campus.

a Boulder, Colo. tradition.

About 15 police officers attended the event to ensure safety and enforce laws against marijuana possession. No arrests were made and no citations were issued.

The crowd gathered around noon. As 4 p.m. rolled around, Frisbees and footballs were replaced with joints. When the exact moment struck, intense cheering rippled across the field.

— Phyllis Zhu

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NEWS & FEATURES

Pres. search committee hosts student forum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
the Selection Committee.

"The members of the search committee were very open to student input and I believe the search is definitely in good hands," freshman class president Dan Teran. "However, we still hold that we would have liked to have seen SGA [Student Government Association] representation on the Committee."

Many on the Council believe that the committee purposely did not choose a member of the Council and instead went for a student who would be less vocal during the selection process.

"I don't think it was a member of this committee that made that ruling, but I think it was definitely handed down that it wasn't a good idea to have students on their [Selection Committee] who would push for student interests because it would be easier that way," Teran said.

The meeting, though open to the general student body, was attended by only 40 students, 20 of whom were members of the Council. According to the Council and the Presidential Selection Committee, e-mails were sent out informing students of the event.

"If we look at any event Hopkins hosts, the turnout is low," said Andrew Gerba, council vice president for activities. "Whether this is indicative of the students we accept or the attitude that is bred on campus, this is how it is. The people who are here are those who are vocal and who have a strong pulse on what goes on here at Hopkins."

Despite low attendance, the lengthy, mostly one-sided discussion, gave students a forum to

express their concerns about the Committee's selection process and criteria. Tony Coles, CEO of Onyx Pharmaceuticals and Gail McGovern, president of the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C., moderated the discussion. Both were graduates of the School of Arts and Sciences. The other committee members present remained mostly silent throughout the meeting.

Issues discussed included Hopkins's rising tuition, the growing disconnect between administration and students, Hopkins's endeavors in sustainability and the institution's role in both local and global communities.

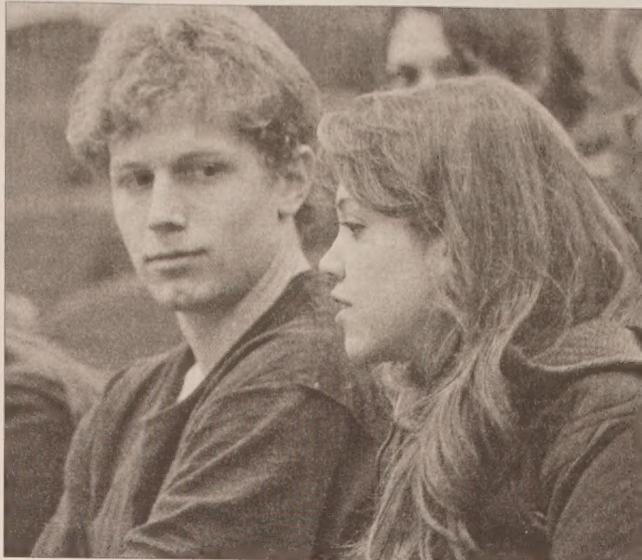
According to the committee, the rising price of tuition and the structure of Hopkins's financial aid services were both issues that the Committee is taking seriously and the subject will be taken into consideration when selecting a new president.

"I don't know if this is going to give you any comfort or not, but when we had our kick-off meeting of the search committee today, that [tuition and financial aid] was one of the biggest items we identified as well," McGovern said.

As the committee members search for a president who will lead Hopkins in the new global economy, they offered their visions of the University for the future.

"As the world changes, I think it will be important to have someone with an external perspective. We need to press for innovation in thought, innovation in science," Coles said.

"Hopkins has a unique responsibility to take those break-



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Students turned out to discuss the selection of a new president in an open forum.

throughs and move them from the developed countries to the developing countries," McGovern said. "We also need to re-think the way we raise money for the school because I think financial aid is going to become more and more important. Our peer institutions are ahead of us in this area and I think we are going to lose the best and brightest students."

Students also called for a change in the basic attitude of the administration towards the management of the University.

"As president, we would like someone who can think outside the bottom line," Teran said. "We do understand that [Hopkins] is very much a business being run but there are places where it may make sense to, perhaps, reduce

profits. The value added to the institution can, in the end, outweigh the costs."

During the meeting, the committee mentioned the secrecy of its proceedings. It has released no timeline or criteria for the selection. Most meetings of the committee will be closed to the public, according to Coles. The committee members gave no indication whether more public forums will be held for discussion on the selection process.

"I don't think we can say that this is going to be our only meeting," Coles said. "Hopkins has a broad constituency across the campus. If we see the need, we will reach out to the community again, I am sure. So, I wouldn't call this the only opportunity to speak on this topic."

But during the selection process, committee members will be required to maintain full confidentiality about the proceedings.

"We can't attract the kind of candidates we want because people are concerned about their goals of positions. We don't want to jeopardize the process," said Julie Morgan, assistant secretary of the Board of Trustees. "Our chair [Pamela P. Flaherty] laid down these strict guidelines. No conversation with the media can occur."

The Council remains split on the growing secrecy of the selection process.

"That's pretty standard," sophomore senator Evan Lazewitz said. "I don't know any school that would allow that. I think that is fine. However, I think there is a need for more undergraduates on the board, such as a member from the SGA."

"I understand [secrecy] because they don't want to misrepresent what is going on but I think keeping the meetings secret from students is regrettable," senior senator Zachary Moor said.

However, despite issues with member selection, many SGA believe the meeting was successful.

"It showed good faith on behalf of the search committee itself by the fact that they made time to talk," senior senator Zachary Moore said. "However, I am disappointed by the fact that the search committee did not include a member from the [SGA] on the selection board."

Moore said he did not believe further meetings will be held.

While the committee, at the moment, has made no announcements of potential candidates for the Office of the President, students, faculty and alumni have made over 100 suggestions to the committee.

The committee has also made no indication whether or not it will actively try to hire a woman or a minority for the position.

"What I have come to, and this is a revolutionary thought for me, is that we first need to work beyond the symbolism of obvious differences, like gender and race, and really look for diversity in thought," Coles said.

The most notable of the suggested candidates is Michael Bloomberg, Hopkins alum and current mayor of New York City. Nearly 40 professors have signed a letter urging the selection committee to consider Bloomberg, citing his past work as chairman of the board of trustees and leader in a major capital campaign as indicative of his capability.

"You can't believe how many people have suggested that," Coles said. "Whether he will consider the job or not, I think that is a decision Mr. Bloomberg will have to make."

Elections postponed after all candidates disqualified

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
elections are currently run.

"The Committee on Student Elections should do everything they can in their power to inform candidates whether they have committed infractions, as more of a courtesy to student body than to the individual candidates," Bierbryer said.

According to Bierbryer, a disservice is done to the student body when a candidate they have elected is later disqualified.

Teran said that he does not believe every disqualified candidate should be given a second chance.

"To be honest, I'm pretty frustrated that some of these candidates got a clean slate," he said.

Krus said that he is not convinced that the current structure of elections can lead to a fair or easy outcome.

"We wanted an easy election and a clear victory, but as soon as we got into these issues, we were constrained. We couldn't always necessarily guarantee best candidates, because at some point we just had to make sure that we have a student government next year," Krus said. "Whoever wins may or may not deserve to be in office, there are obviously issues of justification, but we have to look at the bigger picture."

Bierbryer said that ideally, he would want to open the re-elections to new candidates.

"It would be in the interest of the student body to have the option of new candidates who haven't yet shown that they would violate the rules, but obviously there is a time crunch," he said.

According to a different anonymous source within the Council, and corroborated by several other sources, presidential candidate Sonny Chandrasekhar was disqualified for sending an e-mail to his fraternity brothers asking them to vote for him during the voting period, which is against the CSE rules.

He also allegedly asked each

We couldn't always necessarily guarantee the best candidates... we just had to make sure that we have a student government next year.

TYLER KRUS, CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ELECTIONS

of the pledges to get more votes for him. The anonymous source also alleged that Chandrasekhar sent an amended version of the e-mail to the CSE and a fellow candidate in an attempt to cover up the violation.

Various sources have reported that Teran attempted to gain votes during the election process by telling people that he was only a few votes behind.

Teran said that he never specifically said he knew the vote counts.

"You are more motivated to vote when it counts. I never told anyone who to vote for, but I told people it was close and that they should vote," Teran said.

According to the first anonymous source, this is not the first year that candidates have committed significant violations, but it is the first year that those involved in the elections have drawn so much attention to the controversy.

"CSE has a lot of rules that they think are in effect, but that they never revised to reflect the actual election procedures. That's why experienced candidates have sometimes done things in which CSE has just looked the other way," the source said.

According to Krus, CSE will only pursue a violation if a third party has reported it.

"We're not police officers that go out and look for people who break the rules. We want people to come to us. When we become aware of issues, we go through a process, but sometimes people interpret rules in different ways and we're ultimately the ruling body," Krus said. "I'm sure these things have happened before but because everything was so close this year, and there was a high level of competition, some candidates were definitely spurred to try to get an extra advantage."

Adding to the complications of the appeals process, a third member of the appeals panel had to be selected once the process had already begun.

CSE rules mandate that the

president of Student Council and the director of Student Involvement serve on the panel, but the director was not available. Ralph Johnson, the Council's advisor, took his place. The CSE rules require a third member to be appointed by the Council. Through an e-mail to the entire Student Council last week, Bierbryer proposed Joseph Colon, the assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, as an "available and objective" third member.

It is in Bierbryer's jurisdiction as Student Council president to appoint a third member without any input from the general Student Council, but he offered a by e-mail election regardless, in which 18 votes in favor and one opposed to Colon were ultimately submitted.

Despite this majority vote, various Council members aired their concerns about panel members' potential biases in a series of e-mails.

Councilmember Marc Perkins, sophomore, proposed that either an emergency meeting be held in order to officially elect a third member, or that the appeals process should be postponed.

In his e-mail, Perkins accused Bierbryer of following his own agenda.

"By writing StuCo an e-mail at 10:30 at night, by only including one candidate's name and by coming out strongly in favor of that candidate, you are not leaving room for a fair appointment or open discussion ... You may be the president of the Student Council, but you are not the Student Council," Perkins wrote. "You're being more than a little shady

with regard to these executive elections."

Bierbryer replied by reminding Perkins that he opened the vote to the entire Student Council when he could have appointed Johnson himself and that Perkins's allegations were unfounded.

"What you consider 'shady' regarding these executive elections is my re-

fusal to release information that is confidential and to discuss any part of the election that I was not personally involved in," Bierbryer wrote.

Councilmember Andrew Gerba responded on the e-mail thread and aired his concern that Perkins was attempting to prolong the debate over the third appeals panel member in order to further his own agenda.

"It is my concern that Marc is attempting to delay the naming of the third panelist as a means of creating a discrepancy in the adhering to CSE mandate. CSE requires the panel meet and reach judgments before the passing of two academic days from when CSE files its decisions. Waiting until Tuesday is unacceptable," Gerba wrote. "It is the responsibility of student council to represent the interests of the students as a whole, not their individual ones. With this in mind, I hope Marc, Scott, nor anyone else, is acting with any specific person's interests in mind."

According to the anonymous source, there have been further speculations that certain alliances within Student Council could have motivated Perkins to look for a reason to postpone the appeals process.

Bierbryer said that this inter-Council dispute did not help the appeals process in its attempt to come to a fair decision about the re-elections.

Further, Bierbryer said that in order to prevent election complications like these from happening in the future, the CSE rules and regulations will need to be reviewed and reformed.

"I hope [CSE] really goes through the entire Constitution bylaws and sees that there are no conflicts and no rules that are difficult to enforce. I would also hope that they would focus on being a proactive rather than a reactive group," he said.

Krus said that the CSE has plans to begin this review during the summer.

Talent show struck with controversy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
conflict is a politically divisive issue, and she did not want to appear to be endorsing a particular side.

Proceeds from Hopkins Got Talent go to UNICEF, where they will benefit Palestinian children suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of area conflicts.

When he was first approached by Vision XChange, the student group responsible for organizing the event, Director of Volunteer and Community Services at the Center for Social Concern William Tiefenwerth believed funds would be raised for children on both sides of the conflict.

"I expressed my concern that an event that focused on one people's plight and not another's in the region would be taking a political stance, which is not what we're about here," he said.

Last week Burger and Tiefenwerth notified XChange co-founder and chair Salmah Rizvi of their decision to step down.

Rizvi felt the administrators made their decisions too soon and that the event did not carry the political element they had feared it would.

"We proved tonight that the event was completely humanitarian, it was completely fact-based," she said. "If Dean Burger had come to the event, she would have seen that. Ms. Weir didn't use Vision XChange as a platform for rallying support for either side of this debate."

According to Rizvi, portions of Vision XChange's funds were pulled last week, but restored before Wednesday's event.

Vision XChange is partially funded by the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Center for Social Concern discretionary funds, which according to Rizvi were initially removed by Burger and Tiefenwerth.

But after Rizvi met with the administrators, the funds were restored.

Rizvi said she had assured Burger last week that the event would not be political.

Weir said she did not make efforts to depoliticize her speech, but rather that the topic is essentially apolitical.

"I gave the talk I felt was appropriate for a children's charity. It was a journalistic talk," she said.

Weir explained that she has dealt with controversy in the past.

"There is an effort throughout the country to silence information about Palestine."



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Salmah Rizvi received recognition for her contributions as leader of Vision XChange.

The Coalition of Hopkins Activists for Israel (CHAI) took no action against the event, though the student group disagreed with Weir's position.

"We were not necessarily happy with their choice of speaker. We think she has a very strong anti-Semitic point of view," said Ariana Tart-Zelvin, vice president of CHAI. "But I think people should look at the Web site and decide for themselves."

Tart-Zelvin said CHAI will most likely hold an event to present their own points of view on the issue.

"It's a silencing tactic," Weir said of the allegations of her anti-Semitism.

Maysoon Zayid, an Arab-American comedienne, was the evening's master of ceremonies.

"Do you know where Palestine is? Can I get a round of applause?" she asked at the start of the show. When the audience clapped, Zayid said wryly, "That's funny; it's not on a map. I can't find it."

After all 12 talent acts had performed, Allison Weir took the stage. "I think I frightened off three deans, I'm told," she said to the crowd, which had shrunk to less than half of its original size.

"Thank you to all of the people who came, despite a great deal of pressure, I understand," she said.

During her speech, Weir told an anecdote of a young Palestinian man whose dream it was to study in America.

"It's every young Palestinian's dream to go to college in America," she said.

The young man, Weir continued, had to stay home to care for his younger siblings after his mother was shot and killed during the recent fighting.

After Weir's speech, Rizvi addressed the crowd.

"We went through a rough

road putting this last event together," she said, and thanked those who stayed.

The audience was asked to judge the show by a write-in ballot, and the winners were announced at the very end of the evening.

All in all, Rizvi was pleased with the evening's turnout.

"We expected 200 students, and close to 200 came out," she said.

"Vision XChange is a wonderful group, but I was seeing a different type of program than the ones they've done," Burger said. "The speaker should be welcome to our campus, but maybe in another form where it wouldn't seem divisive."

Tiefenwerth agreed with Burger.

"Vision XChange is all about uniting the campus to do good and have fun," he said. "This year, may be veering a bit. I suggested it might be best to bring Ms. Weir in an event outside of Vision XChange."

But Rizvi disagreed with the administrators, saying Hopkins got talent was entirely consistent with Vision XChange's goals and past events.

"A few students sent them false information," Rizvi said. "Some students were saying Weir is an anti-Semite, and the rumor started flying around campus."

Both Burger and Tiefenwerth learned of the controversial aspects of Weir's appearance through emails circulated last week.

But overall, Rizvi felt communication of the controversy had been poor.

"The only communication of opposition has been through Burger and Tiefenwerth."

"I have no problem with the speaker coming to campus or people attending the event," Burger said. "A university, of all places, needs to foster free exchange."

NEWS & FEATURES

Spring Fair food: a dieter's worst nightmare

Among the many vendors listed to appear at this year's Spring Fair are Hoffman's Funnel Cakes, Big Fat Daddy's, Yum It Up, South Carolina BBQ and MacBrand Foods.

I realize that the names are tantalizing, and the smells even more so, but the crackling fat and airborne calories should remind you that there are a few guidelines you should seriously consider adhering to as you walk the terrifying aisles of food transaction.

If you plan to enjoy Spring Fair's food vending services, I suggest you move on to the nearby stress column (and for the record, at every Spring Fair I ingest a grease-load of pizza, fried Oreos and funnel cakes — one funnel cake per meal.)

First, avoid the grease. It's the stuff that soaks your napkin from off the chicken, the fries and the fried Oreos.

Deep-frying is bad for you. Deep frying is what you see when you go into McDonalds and the fries-makers lift the crispy golden sticks out of the grease in the metal basket. Food is literally dipped in a hot vat of lard and cooked so that fat is absorbed, making the outside crispy and brown. So deep frying is a great way to feed you extra fat.

But also, trans-fat vegetable oil is often chosen for deep-frying

process. Trans fats should sound familiar. They are linked to increased risk of coronary heart disease because they increase the proportion of LDL, or "bad" cholesterol, which helps plug the arteries.

Trans fat may also lower levels of HDL, or "good" cholesterol, whose presence helps protect against cardiovascular diseases.

Try instead to get foods that are grilled or steamed instead of fried. Try the grilled chicken on a stick, corn on the cob or my friend Laura's favorite: gyros. They're Greek, can be made vegetarian and are uber-healthy.

Lisa Ely

To Health With It

dipped in chocolate.

A funnel cake is about 800 empty calories. A strawberry dipped in chocolate is only 50 calories, and includes tons of vitamin C and antioxidants. Even the chocolate has some antioxidants, which make up for the calories. Plus, a funnel cake will fill you up, and you'll have no



FILE PHOTO
Grilled foods, such as chicken-on-a-stick, are a tasty alternative to the otherwise greasy Spring Fair cuisine.

more room for pad Thai.

Skip the soda and lemonade. Bring a bottle of water with you to swish around your mouth and hopefully dislodge some of the cotton candy eating into your enamel. Water will keep you hydrated and has no calories, which leaves room for an extra cup of sherbet.

This next guideline is important: watch your portion size. A strawberry, a smoothie, a bite of your friend's funnel cake

and a kebab — limit yourself and aim for variety.

Try to get an appropriately sized portion of each food group. If you manage to consume an en-

tire thing of cotton candy or plate of deep-fried Oreos, I suggest you avoid sweets after that and aim for the lean meats.

If you're attending the Beer Garden, I'm assuming

you know the drinking drill as you're legal and have presumably been drinking for some time anyway.

Eat some food so you don't regurgitate pure liquid over Brody's lawn, and limit your drinking calorie-wise if you've just come from the food vendors.

It might be wise to have a small, healthy meal before you go to Spring Fair. If you are watching your diet and trying to lose weight, either stick to the guidelines above, or bring a yogurt and stare in hunger and longing as your friends stuff their faces with greasy Pad Thai and fried ice cream.

Remember, Spring Fair is a celebration of spring! Life! Small bunnies and dancing fawns! Edible leaves springing from earth! So try to be healthy, but if you can't resist the funnel cake and triple-fudge milkshake, I won't begrudge you the pleasure.

Eat up, try not to give it back to the world until it's past your duodenum and make up for it later by hitting the gym or avoiding dessert for a few days.

Lauren ones you find on every street corner.

And invest in a cotton oxford shirt and pair it with a cardigan.

These are just some general examples for what is considered stylish and fashionable on the streets. These tips are what you need to build a steady wardrobe. The important factor to keep in mind is originality.

Follow the seasonal trends, but do not be afraid to inject a little class and style into your outfit.

Fashion is not about how others view you, but how you view yourself. So put a smile on your face when you look in the mirror tomorrow.

Siavash can be reached at siavash.raigani@jhunewsletter.com.

Incorporate classic elements of men's fashion

When it comes to soul-searching, love-seeking and dressing themselves, men should follow certain rules.

In the world of clothing, these rules range from simple issues, such as choosing the proper socks, to more complex things, like tailoring a suit.

Men of the older generations adhere to certain norms, but these are lost in translation as they are passed on to our generation.

These essential standards of style should be noted by all men, and so I present a simple series of rules and regulations for you to keep in mind.

The Suit

The suit is the starting point of a man's wardrobe. Buy yourself a two-button suit, placing emphasis on the two. The three-button days are long gone and will most definitely not return.

The two-button will give you a slimmer look while exposing more of your tie and shirt.

Make sure you know the difference between a notch lapel and a peak lapel, and which one suits you better (pun definitely intended).

The notch lapel is the standard style worn by men, and has a missing "notch" cut out where the lapel meets the collar.

The peak lapel is cut so that there is a sharp corner pointing upwards toward the shoulders where the lapel meets the collar.

In more formal attire, you might also encounter a shawl-collared jacket, usually worn with a bowtie, where the lapel is a continuous piece of cloth starting from the midriff and extending up to the collar, around, and down the other side.

Once you've bought the suit, the next important step is getting it tailored. This is essential to looking your best.

Since no ready-to-wear suit fits perfectly, ask your tailor to bring in the jacket and shoulders, narrow the sleeves and cut the pants so that it breaks only once.

Also ask the tailor to stop the jacket cuff right at the hinge of your wrist, so that your dress shirt shows just a bit of the cuff underneath. The central theme here is slim and narrow. The days of baggy pants and jackets

are long gone.

The Tie

The tie is the frosting on the cake. Most men know the basics of color coordination, but they tend to skip the details.

For one, your tie should never be wider than half the width of your forehead. If you're mathematically inclined, think of it in the form of the nice equation $T=W/2$.

Alongside that, unless your name is Domenico Dolce or Stefano Gabbana, your tie should not be insanely superskinny either.

Keep your tie slim, about three inches wide, and you'll look modern and sophisticated.

Invest in a slim black tie; it will spruce up any formal or casual outfit, not to mention it goes well with just about everything.

I've also been pushing this for a while too: Invest in a diagonally striped, slim collegiate tie. It carries the perfect amount of prep in it.

Finally, make sure you can tie your knot well. Don't leave it looking overly large or small. It should form a nice triangle with a small dimple beneath. Never forget the dimple.

Socks and shoes

When looking for dress shoes, avoid clunky pieces of leather. Opt for sleek narrow shoes in black or brown with a slight heel.

Also, consider that brown leather shoes can be worn with gray, navy or tan pants, whereas black shoes are limited to black pants.

Moreover, your socks should be of high quality and match the color of your suit.

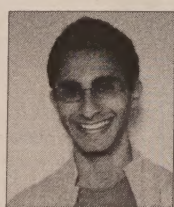
For example, a navy suit with brown shoes dictates navy socks, and a tan suit with brown shoes dictates tan socks slightly darker than the pants.

Casual

Even if you're not going to weddings and date-parties, you still need to look well-dressed.

A grey V-neck sweater is important for all occasions. Wear it with a well-chosen pair of Japanese salvage denim jeans, like those from the venerated A.P.C. brand.

Pick up some distinct polo shirts, not the generalized Ralph



Siavash Raigani
Hop Couture

Sip, smell, soak and soothe your way to stress-free finals

The end of the academic year is bittersweet. You're almost done with another rigorous semester, and summer fun is on the horizon.

But now the time crunch is on, and the pressure of keeping up with the workload can be overwhelming. Before you stress out, try to take a positive approach.

Maybe you need to get out aggression through a cardio sweat session, or hit the weight room.

But if you prefer a gentle form of stress relief, try these herbal remedies and meditation to enhance your mood and exercise your mind, body and soul.

Sip

Before you reach your boiling point, boil a pot of water instead. Herbal teas such as chamomile can have a calming effect, helping you de-stress when you feel like the college workload is more than you can handle.

Sit, sip, breathe, organize your plan of action and know that it will all be okay.

Chamomile tea not only soothes your mind, but also your stomach. It can solve digestive problems you may be facing from eating the cafeteria food and fight nasty nausea.

This tea is also great to use at bed time because it is calming. So if your roommate snores like a 65-year-old man with a bad head cold, it will help you tune them

out and get some rest (with the help of ear plugs or an iPod).

Smell

Aromatherapy uses essential oils — extracts from plants in their purest form — relieve stress and promote better health.

Lavender and geranium alleviate stress and anxiety, while lemon and peppermint fight fatigue and exhaustion.

These are natural (and legal) herbal remedies that can help you relax.

You can even create your own mini steam room. Boil water, add a few drops of the oil in, and inhale the steam.

The fragrance will not only invigorate your senses, but will act as a natural air freshener.

Soak

The luxury of a bathtub is not possible in all college living situations, but if you're lucky enough to have one, it can be a great place to sit back and relax.

Water by itself has many natural healing powers. The warm water can help relax muscles and ease tension.

A quick stop in the beauty aisle is all it takes to find refreshing bath and shower gels or bath salts, which help cleanse and moisturize skin.

Essential oils can be added to a bath for aromatherapy.

You can set the mood for complete relaxation by lighting

How to hide hickeys, and other sexy solutions

Dealing with baby drama, a boyfriend evolution or hiding those hickies? I've got your answers.

Q: I'm a junior, and I think my biological clock might be ticking. Lately all I can think about is having a baby. I don't have a boyfriend, but how do I find a guy who wants to have kids?

A: The only reason I would send you to a doctor is to get you on the pill until you're sure, economically and socially, that you can handle a baby.

That said, you might very well scare some guys away. Especially here, where everyone is so career-focused and nearly everyone you ask wants to get their lives in order before they start a family.

If you're sure you want to and can manage raising a baby, make sure the guy you find is as into it as you are.

And don't be afraid to go to a Planned Parenthood or Birthright. They're not all about abortion, not at all — they're always glad to help you get on the pill, help you decide

if now is a good time to have a baby, all sorts of things.

Q: My boyfriend was somewhat, well, socially awkward when I met him. Now that we're dating, he's become a lot more confident and forward. My friends say that I should be glad I've helped him be more social, but should I be worried that I've given him enough confidence that he's going to find someone better than me?

Does he still spend a lot of time with you? Or has he already started dumping you for his new social life? If it's the latter, then be worried. Otherwise, I'd say he realizes that you helped him become who he is and he loves you even more for it.

Quick side note: Please never date down so they won't cheat. Don't date someone you know is dumber or less attractive than you just so you can be assured they won't cheat.

Not only does that theory not always work — sometimes the

ugliest ones are the most likely to stray — but you are not helping yourself at all.

Q: How do I get a hickey to go away quickly?

First be sure it is actually a hickey, and not just a bite mark. Bite marks aren't the same and cannot be tricked into disappearing. Luckily for you, hickies can.

One of the easiest ways is to ice the area as soon after as possible. The window for this is supposedly six hours but I've never found it to work after four.

So as soon as possible after finishing your hickey-generating activities, find something cold. Ice works, frozen foods work, even cold cans or glass bottles work fairly well.

If you don't manage to get ice on it, your best plan is to implement lots of prevention. Turtlenecks and scarves and high collared jackets are so in.

If your hickies are still red, try adding a little light green eye-shadow (CoverGirl makes a good one) to balance, and try to avoid the glittery ones. Add foundation over that.

Keep in mind that generally your neck is a shade or

two lighter than your face. Dark peach spots are almost as noticeable as dark red ones!

To get it to go away faster, I swear by the toothbrush method. Take an old toothbrush (not too hard bristles), and rub the hickey.

Twisting the cap of a chapstick or wide pen also helps. I won't try to explain the biological reasoning here.

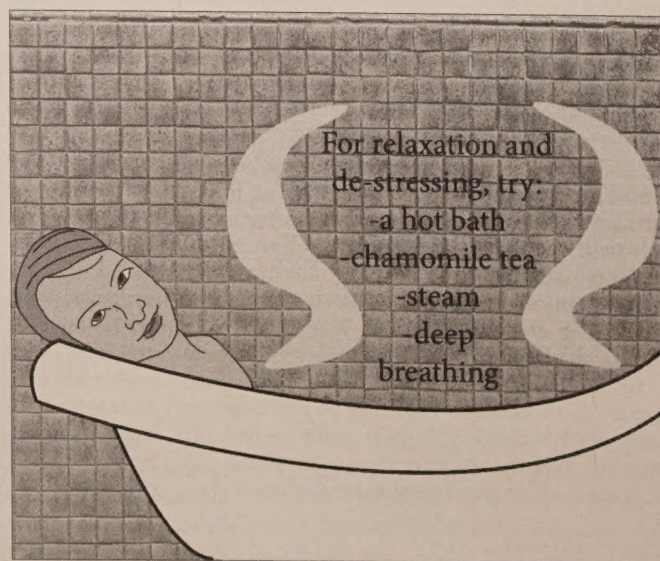
Some people say putting deodorant on them also helps, but I've never bothered to try. In between toothbrush treatments, try putting a spoon in the freezer and then holding it to your neck. I've found that to work better than the warm washcloth method.

Good luck, and don't forget to invest in inconspicuous neck coverings if you like being bitten. It's just common sense. Especially since the real bite marks don't go away as easily.

Please e-mail questions to grace.henry@jhunewsletter.com.



Grace Gwendolyn Henry
That's What She Said



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

candles and playing low music. It may sound cheesy, but you'll be surprised at how pampering yourself for only 15 to 20 minutes can take the edge off stress.

Soothe

At Hopkins, peace and quiet are hard to come by. Your roommate may have the music blaring, ambulance sirens may be screaming throughout the night or you may be able to hear the people in the apartment above you.

Whatever the situation is, you'll find that complete silence for a few minutes a day to reflect can ease your mind.

Start with five minutes of silence and concentration. Focus on your breathing, making your inhales and exhales equal in length.

Imagine that you are breath-

ing into areas of tension like your neck and shoulders, and exhaling that negative energy out of your body.

Raise your arms over your head in a smooth and controlled movement as you inhale.

As you breathe out, release your arms back to your sides as you reach your fingertips towards the walls of the room.

Be conscious of how your body feels as you breathe and move. Being in tune with your body can help you relax and be aware of the effects of stress on the body.

Just wait — when all the papers are handed in, and the finals are done, you'll forget about the stressful moments and be able to enjoy some downtime.

Fitness questions? E-mail Kelly at kellygonzalez9@mac.com.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Democratizing student politics

The Student Council Appeals Panel decision to disqualify all the candidates running for the Executive Council and hold another election is mired with confusion and controversy. It has once again displayed the bureaucratic and insular nature of Student Council.

It is very possible that holding another election will be necessary. Before the appeals, five of the nine candidates running for office were disqualified by the Committee on Student Elections (CSE). Certainly, the elections proved to be a complete debacle, and few viable solutions were left. During the appeals process, the Appeals Panel decided that it would be prudent to disqualify all candidates and hold another election.

The Panel, however, never gave any reason for the mass disqualifications. If the four candidates who avoided punitive action by the CSE actually merited disqualification, holding another election would be understandable. However, the Appeals process was so opaque that it calls into question the legitimacy of the decision.

If the four other candidates were disqualified due to misdeeds, the reasons for their disqualifications must be made known to the student body. This is important for a number of reasons. First, many don't understand why the Student Council is having another election. If a handful of candidates ran clean campaigns, this election effectively punishes them by holding new elections. Moreover the punishment to those who did not follow the rules is negated.

The problem is that we don't even know if the candidates who were not disqualified by the CSE are innocent or not. The student government needs to be more transparent about these issues. The hope is that the new Student Government Association will be a transparent and effective advocate student interests. This election is particularly important because it will decide what direction the student government will take in the future. Students already voted and now that election, damaged by broken rules, irresponsible behavior and electoral incompetence, will be instantly negated. Students need to know why.

Furthermore, the Appeals Panel must disclose its reasons for disqualifying candidates because such information will shape student opinion in the coming election. Students should know who was disqualified, what rules they broke and the severity of each violation. Indiscriminate disqualification creates the perception that each candidate was equally guilty, which may not be the case.

The structure of the appeals board further undermines its decisions. It's a three-person body with only one student representative, Student Council President Scott Bierbryer. While there is no justifiable reason to suggest that Bierbryer is biased, the appeals court lacks legitimacy because of its size and lack of students able to balance one another.

Hopefully the judicial branch of the new SGA will be able to serve as a technocratic, sovereign body that can deal with future issues such as this without any doubt of legitimacy.

The CSE, however, will still exist after the new Constitution is established. After these elections, the Student Council needs to take a serious look at how to reform the election process.

The CSE, as it currently exists, is a reactive organization. The body simply responds to complaints that come to it about campaign violations. Moreover its rules are torturous and overly burdensome and need to be streamlined, while the organization needs to become more transparent. Rather, the CSE must be a proactive and independent body that investigates and checks up on each respective campaign with equal vigor to make sure that successive elections are fair.

Hopefully the next election can avoid the bureaucratic quagmire that this one has become. Whoever is elected to the next Executive Council must address electoral reform head on.

The new Constitution may allow the Council to avoid some of this, but it will largely depend on the individuals who will be chosen in these elections and the rules they implement. There is much to be done for the SGA, but first the government must make sure that it is a fluid, fair and legitimate democracy.

Build with caution

The University has made no secret of its desire to significantly expand its capacity to house undergraduates on campus. A report in the *News-Letter* this week suggests that the administration may convert the Charles and Blackstone apartments — which it bought in 2006 — into residential dormitories. This is in addition to long-term plans to build a sprawling “Freshmen Complex,” which would house the entire freshman class and free up space for upperclassmen in such buildings as Wolman and McCoy.

Providing more on-campus housing for undergraduates — thereby clustering them around campus — would bind together a historically fractured student body. However, this page remains suspicious of such an ambitious program, because it inches the University toward what many believe is the administration's underlying goal: a mandate compelling all undergraduates to live in on-campus housing.

By emptying Wolman of its freshmen and converting the Charles and Blackstone into dorms, the University will have so much space to fill that a mandate seems only logical. That concerns us, because Hopkins upperclassmen have always cherished their right to live off campus. Whether to save money or strike out on their own, upperclassmen have always chosen

to live off campus in large numbers, and the University must preserve their right to do so.

The demand certainly exists for increased on-campus housing: Approximately 300 students have been turned away from residential housing in each of the past two years. Some upperclassmen choose to live on campus for convenience or security. But the choice to live on or off campus should remain just that — a choice, one that upperclassmen, as responsible (paying) adults, should have the right to make.

If the University believes that sufficient demand exists to increase the availability of on-campus housing, then it should invest the appropriate resources into meeting that demand. If it's unsure of the demand, then it should take up a broad survey of parent and student opinion, and base its plans on the results of that survey.

Taking up such a dramatic and expensive program without first gauging student interest seems reckless, and a surefire way to create more space than is necessary. It would be unfair and irresponsible for the University to insure itself against such a mistake by mandating on-campus housing, thus revoking a basic right that has been cherished by upperclassmen for years.

Make study abroad affordable

The establishment of the Office of Study Abroad was a positive step toward making studying abroad more appealing and accessible for undergraduates. The Office recently announced a change in the payment policy that addresses some of the inequities of the payment structure of study abroad, yet it remains insufficient.

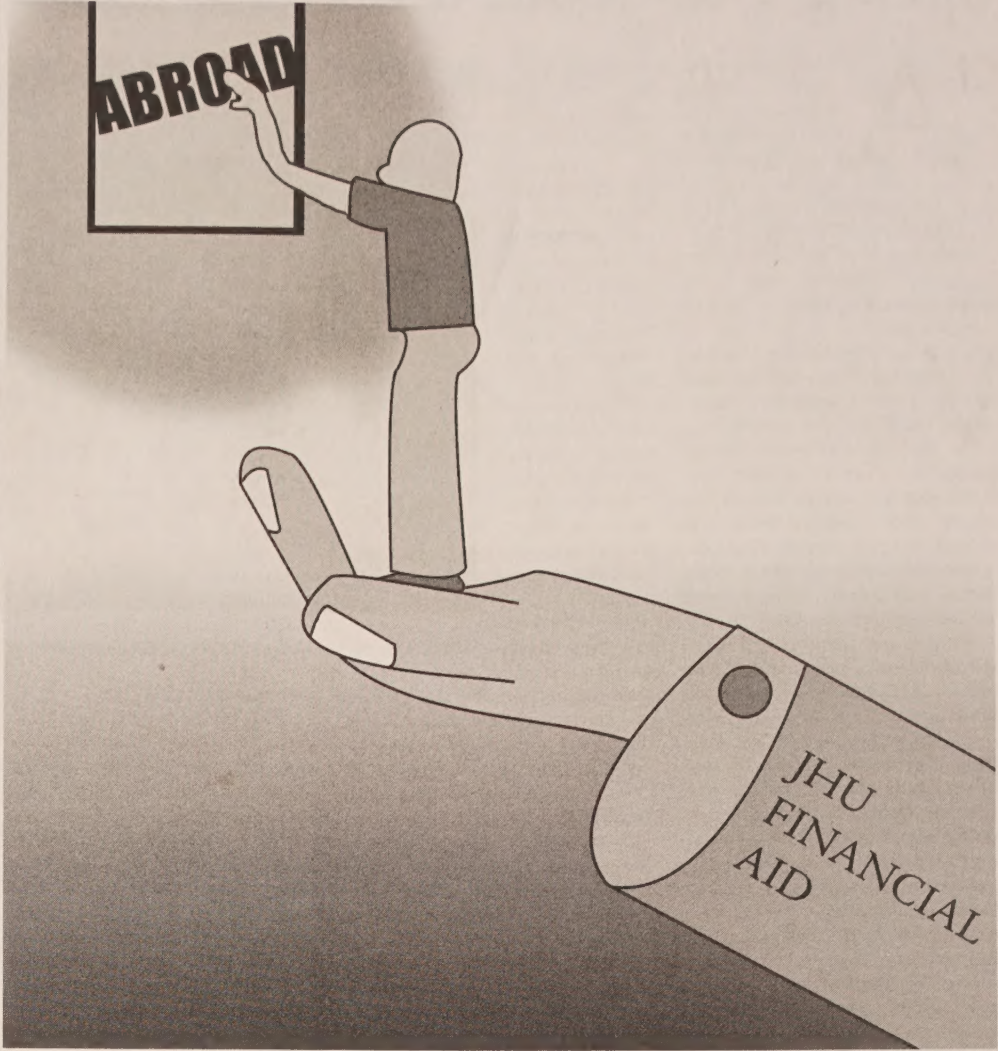
Under the new policy students must pay the cost of their respective study abroad program plus an additional off-campus matriculation fee. This extra fee is currently estimated as approximately 10 percent of Hopkins's tuition, which adds up to more than \$1,500 per semester. This additional fee is egregious and unjustifiable. The fee, obviously intended to recoup a small portion of a student's would-be tuition, renders study abroad a feasible option only for the well off.

While we do not believe that studying abroad is an academic right or necessity, the

opportunity to do so should not be financially restrictive. That is why the Office's revised aid guidelines are commendable. The new guidelines will allow for institutional grants and scholarships to be used towards study abroad programs. This change makes study abroad a more equitable opportunity, providing students from diverse economic situations the opportunity to participate in a potentially enriching learning experience.

If the University is concerned with the financial losses incurred by allowing students to study at outside institutions, then it should provide more study abroad programs. The solution that is both profitable for the University and fair to students is for the University to establish and administer more of its own programs. The Office of Study Abroad's policy changes are a step in the right direction, but the changes ultimately fall short of what the Office should do.

MATT HANSEN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students visit Gossip Girl set in NYC

I wanted to drop a quick note to the editor in response to the excellent piece written by Ms.

Byer regarding the student trip up to New York. While the Office of External Affairs was given credit for planning the trip along with the film program, the work of another office was overlooked. Mary Ellen Porter of the Parents Fund in the Office of Annual Giving, originally contacted

Vebe Borge and was instrumental in securing the most exciting part of this two-day adventure. The Parents Fund works diligently and passionately for the Homewood community, and I wanted to highlight the efforts put forth on this occasion.

— Emily Krohn

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and cannot be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

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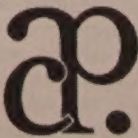
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Obama's politics incompatible with reality?

By RAVI GUPTA

What's the point in voting? It's not going to change my life," said Sandra, a woman I interviewed just outside the Hopkins medical campus, who was only willing to give me her first name.

A brief inspection of Sandra's street in Middle East Baltimore, adjacent to the Science and Technology Park being constructed near the Hopkins medical campus, was enough for me to almost fall in agreement with her words. Deserted commercial buildings and decaying row houses border her street. Sandra's experience of poverty, however, clearly extends beyond just housing, encompassing crime and gang violence, failing schools and poor public services.

Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) has proposed a \$6-billion plan to combat urban poverty through a variety of social, cultural and health programs. Yet even the presidential hopeful himself conceded the difficulties in implementing his proposal, saying in July of last year, "Changing the odds in our cities will require humility in what we can accomplish and patience with our progress." Obama has professed repeatedly that, as a Washington outsider, he will be a "different" kind of president, one that isn't involved in backroom dealings or influenced by corporate lobbyists. He proclaims that he will rise above the political haggling between parties, passing policies that fundamentally change how Americans live in this country. But is it rational to believe that just by reaching across the aisle, he will convince Republicans to agree with him and radically "change Washington"? History dictates that Obama will inevitably need to compromise with his opposition.

Obama claims that he would use his executive power to push through a national agenda, but the Framers of the Constitution designed the American system of government to prevent exactly this. The Framers were afraid of concentrating power in the executive branch and therefore gave tremendous power and fierce independence to the legislative branch. In the U.K., the legislative branch follows a national agenda or the government collapses. But American congressmen have little interest in following a national policy agenda or incentive to follow the executive branch. Congressmen are largely motivated by either liberal or conservative ideologies and self-interest. It is for this reason that elections in America rarely produce the magnitude of change that they do in other countries. Presidential elections are not so much critical as they are reflective of whether or not the past four years have been "good" or "bad."

Bill Clinton ran a campaign similar to Obama's — one of "hope" and "change" — but in his first 100 days in office, Republicans blocked every major proposal. FDR and LBJ both pushed "national agendas" but did so with sweeping Democratic majorities in Congress. And a Democratic super-majority in the 111th Congress is unlikely.

The Constitution moderates the pace of change, making it neither easy nor impossible to adopt radical proposals. The Framers of the Constitution favored a Congress that was deliberative, not decisive. The American government is designed so that congressional procedures make passing a bill and bringing about political change very difficult. Opposition has ample opportunities to kill proposed legislation as it moves through committee, floor and conference action.

In 2004 for example, when the Republicans controlled Congress, President Bush tried to enact Social Security reform (privatization of Social Security, the dream of the Republican Party) but was blocked by Democratic legislators, even though they were in the minority, because they refused to agree on a compromise. In the 110th Congress, the GOP Senate minority has systematically blocked almost everything but the Senate chaplain's Morning Prayer.

But the American national government is designed as a deliberative democracy that provides for such action. Obama's proposal for a "new kind of politics" neglects how government works in the real world. Obama writes in his bestseller, *The Audacity of Hope*, that the "elaborate machinery" of separation of powers, checks and balances and federalist principles in the Constitution hampers progress and changes in public policy. But the argument of public policies in public forums is one of the underlying principles upon which America was founded. Such a claim by Obama serves only to illegitimize the collective judgment that results from deliberative processes.

Ravi Gupta is a junior public health and biology major from Garnet Valley, Pa..

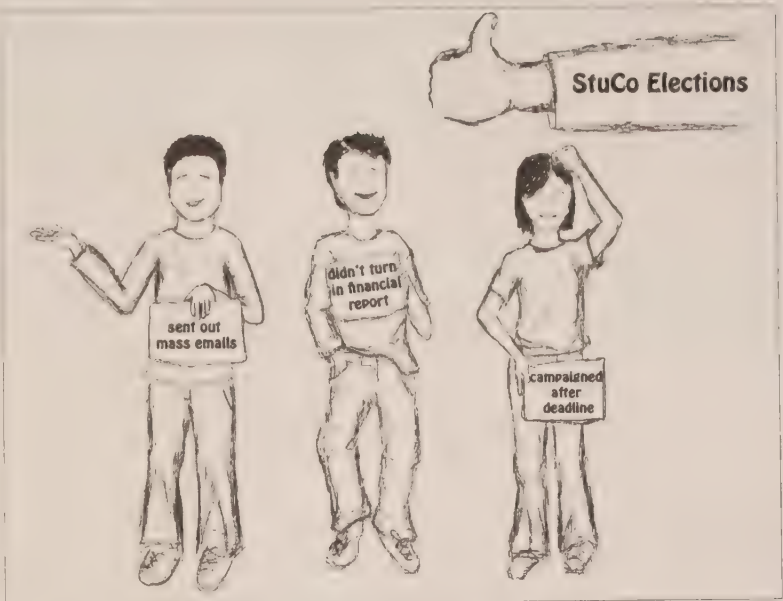
Punishing the candidates who ran a clean campaign

By NATHAN LEVIN

To put it simply, I'm disappointed by recent developments that have taken place in the student council elections on account of decisions by the appeals committee and by Student Council.

First of all, the decision made by the Appeals Committee to disqualify all candidates running for executive Council positions was rash and overly aggressive. I think the Appeals Committee wrongly chose to ignore the decision made by the Committee on Student Elections (CSE), which only voted to disqualify five of the nine candidates. The CSE was created for a reason — to run and monitor elections as a disinterested body — and I think that we should leave more discretion up to them to perform their function. They are the ones setting rules and have been following the election process with the utmost scrutiny. It doesn't make sense that their decision can be so easily overturned by three people on the Appeals board, who only met for one afternoon (and one of whom sits as the president of Council).

It was also a poor decision to push back the executive elections. From a principled point of view, I don't think it's appropriate to hold new elections two weeks later that disregard all campaign violations that were made in the first. The fact is that those violations (such as mass e-mails asking for fraternity brothers to vote for a candidate) will still have influence on this new election, giving the candidates who violated campaign policy an unfair advantage in this upcoming election. Those candidates who ran a clean campaign are at a disadvantage for following the rules. Still the Appeals Committee is clearly bent on redoing the executive



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

elections. To compensate for the disadvantaged candidates the Appeals Committee should institute vote penalties in the upcoming elections to reprimand the candidates who failed to play fair.

Furthermore, the decisions of the Appeals Committee forced the CSE to postpone the timing of class elections without asking for the opinion of or input from anyone involved in the class elections. It appears as if the class elections were shoved off to the side for no good reason. If we want to talk about increasing voter turnout on campus, it is not a wise tactic to tell the student body for a month that elections will be on a certain day and then suddenly postpone them

the day before the set date.

From the view of an incumbent in the sophomore class presidential election, it is not fair for parties like myself to be affected by the errors of individuals in the executive elections. The postponement of the class elections meant that my time scheme, which included distributing flyers a couple of days before voting, hanging posters with a printed expiration date of this last Monday and telling people to vote last Friday, was nullified. I did not have the time or the money to reprint flyers and mailers to redistribute a week later, and I suspect that most others who took their campaign seriously didn't either. However, candidates who

were lazy and didn't campaign as much previously got an extra chance.

The last upsetting development in the election process occurred on Tuesday night, when Student Council chose to table the motion to disregard senior votes in the executive election process. This decision in effect enforces the mandate by the Appeals Committee that states, "Senior Votes do count in Executive Board elections." In a democratic institution such as Student Council, it doesn't make the least bit of sense to include votes from a group of people who will not be affected by their decision, since the seniors will no longer be present when the new candidates are to serve their term. By nature, disinterested parties should not have voting power. In U.S. government elections we certainly don't see residents of Maine voting for senatorial candidates in California.

It is a shame that this year's election process turned out as it did, especially after the CSE spent so much time this past year on restructuring campaign rules and guidelines to avoid these types of incidents. I am only sorry for this year's candidates that these changes were so quickly overruled by the wave of a hand from the Appeals Committee. I say let's allow the CSE to do its job. When it comes to elections, more trust and authority should be given to the CSE, and the Appeals Committee should not be able to so easily disregard their decisions. As is exemplified in this situation, intervention from Student Council and the Appeals Committee in the election process has only made matters worse.

Nathan Levin is a sophomore International Studies major from Berkeley, Calif. He is also the sophomore class president.

Dave Snyder

Promises that don't come out right

his base. However we have to remember that there are always two sides to each issue, which become apparent as we delve a little deeper.

First of all, we have to remember that McCain isn't Superman (or anywhere close, sorry), so he's not going to be able to lower or eliminate the gas tax all by himself. What he certainly can do, and probably will attempt to do, is pass legislation through Congress in an effort to achieve the promised results. Is this feasible? Certainly at this point it's hard to predict, but I'm going to go ahead and say no. My logic: being the presumptive (I say presumptive because nothing's set until the convention) Republican nominee for the presidential election, McCain certainly has a number of enemies on the Democratic side of the aisle (and also quite a few on the Republican side, but that's a different issue altogether). As both houses are currently controlled by the Democrats, it's already not very feasible for a Republican to push legislation through Congress. Add to this the fact that McCain will be running against a Democratic candidate in November, and the Dems have even less of an incentive to want to pass legislation that McCain is trying to deliver as a campaign prom-

ise. Arguably the Democratic Party is already split due to the primary (thanks Hillary), but the one thing that all Democrats can still unite against is McCain.

Now, even if we are to take that issue and throw it aside, there are still a number of reasons for others to not be in favor of McCain's gas tax elimination. As he said himself, it amounts to an "economic stimulus." President George W. Bush has thrown this phrase around a lot over the past few years with respect to lowering taxes, and we've seen exactly where the economy has gone. These "economic stimuli" have essentially accomplished nothing, at least not in the long term. So what would make McCain's "economic stimulus" any different? Probably nothing.

In order to pay for the ever-increasing price of gasoline, Americans haven't really cut spending — rather, they've curtailed spending in other areas and shifted the money to paying for gasoline. Either way, the money is still getting spent — it's just a matter of redirecting the money. So if Americans were to save some money on gasoline (18 cents a gallon is the current Federal gas tax), they would simply redirect this money back to food or the place from where it was originally cut. This is

especially true of lower-income families. We must also ask ourselves how much of a difference 18 cents would make. Certainly it sounds good, but do you really change your spending habits dramatically if the price of gas is, say, \$3.20 per gallon as opposed to \$3.40 per gallon? I know I don't.

One final consideration is certainly the environment. By eliminating a gas tax, McCain would effectively be asking Americans to buy more gas at a lower rate. This would lead to increased driving, and thus more harmful carbon emissions. In a day when nearly everyone, including Bush, agrees that something must be done to save the environment, asking people to drive more is effectively taking a giant step backwards. Studies have shown that higher gas prices have led Americans to reconsider their driving habits and also to use cleaner, more gas-efficient vehicles, leading to positive effects on the environment.

So let's all be aware that things aren't always as great as they seem. Plans that sound good on the surface may not be as feasible as is initially apparent. In some cases they may prove to be a detriment to society. McCain's gas tax reduction presents a prime example of such an idea.

Colin Ray

Moral outrage. Sometimes.

As Eliot Spitzer inexorably fades from the headlines and probably back into a little bit cheaper clientele of scarlet women, our moral outrage specialists are once again ravenously licking their chops and searching for the next meteoric celebrity flare-out (maybe something on the level of a prominent middle-aged black male kidnapping a pretty, white teenaged girl while at an illegal dogfight) or any other sort of race/gender controversy.

Despite the constant need to express moral outrage, several stories slipped through the grasp of moralists (and apparently everyone) such as the White House's Friday night by-the-way admission that high-level officials (such as the president and attorney general) drafted and signed off on torture as a way to get information from suspects, or the failure of anyone to call out the housing industry's complete lack of due diligence for a few million "homeowners," perhaps based on the fear of reminding people that the economy currently resembles a beached whale.

Good thing there are polygamists to push around.

Responding to one complaint of sexual abuse from a 16-year-old girl calling from a polygamist ranch, the great state

of Texas took the unusual if not unprecedented step of taking over 400 children into protective custody and thus inviting a media bonanza to the Yearning for Zion ranch in Eldorado. This move, which even involved infants, creates an undesirable situation that will likely result in 400 children being placed into foster care in a town of 90,000 people, which might employ as many as four social workers. That, of course, is far less important than keeping those kids away from their big, bad, polygamist dads.

Don't worry; I'm not about to stand up for polygamists. During a recent CNN interview, three polygamist fathers seemed about as concerned about getting their kids back as they are about — well, they couldn't have seemed less concerned about getting their kids back.

Though I disagree with the asinine shortsightedness of taking 400 kids into custody and despite the fact that the tiny town of Eldorado temporarily tripled in population last week, I think it's great that fundamentalism is getting all of this negative press.

It also doesn't bother me that this polygamist cult, the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the fundamentalist branch of an inherently fundamentalist church, is in particular

facing such difficult times. In fact, I would (and have) support Spitzer and Michael Vick before I'd ever support polygamists.

Despite the prevalence of the behavior in the rest of the mammalian world, polygamy in a fundamentalist religious setting does not tend to allow people, women in particular, to escape from their situation and results in extreme brainwashing above and beyond that of your average run-of-the-mill cult or religion. (Why do you think polygamist "ranches" are invariably in remote places?) And even though the authorities are getting in on the pretense of alleged sexual abuse by someone of the age of consent, it's fine.

The real problem with this, and the reason that the story will fade from the headlines, is simply that the footage is awful. Polygamist wives wear high-cut ankle-length dresses with sleeves that extend to the hand, and never cut their hair, for the intended purpose of eschewing any possible sex appeal. Polygamist husbands talk slowly and give no impression of being aware of concepts outside of one of the youngest "theological" texts in existence, the Book of Mormon, and women. This doesn't give TV a lot to work with.

Once the inherent shock value of showing moving pictures of women showing no skin is gone, there's no real

point in running the footage. Also, with charismatic polygamist and convicted rapist Warren Jeffs in jail, there's no one interesting around either.

Eventually though, this too will fade from the news. The children, at least the younger ones, will probably be returned to their mothers, who will continue in some way to be attached (if not legally) to their rapid polygamist husbands.

Who will continue their legitimately morally reprehensible brainwashing, cousin-marrying ways. And once again, the roving bands of those heavily armed with airtime and print and with unimpeachable moral standards will prowl freely in the world of current affairs, looking to ambush moral reprobates and others who know how to have a good time. Perhaps someday, someone in the Bush Administration might give an answer to questions about whether torture is an official policy of the United States. Or perhaps, in an odd reversal of history that seems to be the standard these days, easier targets will come into the scope and our national sins will remain unpunished while we continue to distract ourselves by sending the easy pickings to the guillotine.

Colin Ray is a junior English major from Chatham, Ohio.

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APRIL 24, 2008

The Greatest Scene In America

Baltimore has sustained a vibrant music scene for years. Now, thanks to *Rolling Stone* and *Blender*, the wider world has gotten a taste of the Baltimore sound — and they like it.

Page B3



Ever thought your older brother had it easy? Think again- new research reveals a suprising fact about siblings. Page B7.

CALENDAR APRIL 24 - APRIL 30

APR.
24

Brit-based Elbow to woo Washington

"Elbow" is the third name that the Manchester-bred band has gone by, but by no means does their music seem conflicted in its identity.

Garnering musical attention since the late 1990s, Elbow as they appear today first emerged on the scene in 2001 with their debut album *Asleep in the Back*, after a series of EPs and failed releases due to rickety record labels.

Asleep in the Back, regarded as one of the seminal albums of a new musical millennium, was nominated for the Mercury Music Prize, though Elbow's progress until this point had been pot-holed. Dropped from their first label, Island Records, before releasing any music, Elbow then signed to V2 Records under which they released their first LP.

Despite their unsound history, Elbow's devotion to re-defining their music and their message has earned them a following of listeners who appreciate their stark and emotionally bare lyricism and interesting aural organization.

And though Elbow can ally themselves with a music niche of gloom-rock with ambient flourishes, their second release, *Cast of Thousands*, sets them apart as at least a standout of the group.

The brilliantly shifting textures, which are aided by bassist Pete Turner, keyboardist Craig Potter, guitarist Mark Potter and drummer Richard Jupp, when coupled with the striking emotional and lyrical panache, make for a somewhat melancholy listen that strikes intrigue. Less dreary than *Asleep in the Dark*, Elbow manages to maintain their edge while softening, and broaden-

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.BBC.CO.UK](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

A post-Spring Fair trip to D.C. becomes all the more tempting now that Elbow is set to perform at the Sixth and I Synagogue.

ing, the approach.

Their third release, *Leaders of the Free World*, finds Elbow tapping into their likenesses to Peter Gabriel due to their lead singer, Guy Garvey. The thematic content of the album is politically charged and slightly less captivating; the first track, "Station Approach," is a low drone building into a chant that is interesting to listen to, but perhaps less idiosyncratic and thus less memorable.

However, the entire album was self-produced, pointing to Elbow's devotion to personal and musical reinvention. The inclusion of a cellist as well as violinists add even more richness to the dreamy mix that saves *Leaders of the Free World* from be-

ing the musical downfall of the band.

Elbow's most recent release, *The Seldom Seen Kid*, has been received with the utmost of high regards, its tone slightly cheerier, its approach more experimental. Most of the tracks, especially "Starlings," "Bones of You" and "Grounds for Divorce," stand at the fulcrum of the album's strength. Elbow has seemingly solidified its status as a standout in the sea of Coldplays and Keane's by the conclusion of the seven minutes of building intensity that come with the impassioned track "One Day Like This."

Even more certain that Elbow's musical ability is the surprising earthliness (that is, their down-to-earth appeal) of the no-

tably spacey sound: Despite being consistently hailed as one of indie music's forerunners and boasting one of the most highly regarded and consistently brilliant songwriters in the industry, Elbow's live performances are hardly pretentious. Their live shows have been described as disheveled and disarming — a pairing that seems uncommon, yet similarly intriguing enough to want to see for yourself.

This Sunday Elbow comes to Washington, D.C. at the Sixth and I Synagogue (600 I St. NW), a relatively tiny and thoroughly intimate venue that would fit the warm resonance that Elbow is sure to deliver.

—Dana Covit

MOVIE OPENINGS

Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantánamo Bay

Opening at Landmark Harbor East Cinema

Friday, April 25

12:10 p.m. | 2:35 p.m. | 5:15 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. | 10:10 p.m.

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MOVIECRITIC.COM](http://www.moviecritic.com)

The much-awaited second installment of Harold and Kumar's epic journeys finds our friends evading assorted police forces when they try to sneak onto a plane en route to Amsterdam.

of all shapes, sizes and content available for purchase for just \$3 per pound. The book sale is open to the public and will be held in the Glass Pavilion.

Local events

Thursday, April 24

6:30 p.m. College Night at Centerstage. Mingle (and enjoy free munchies) during a pre-show reception. Then enjoy the world premiere of "These Shining Lives," by Melanie Marnich. Entrance is only \$15 for full-time students with a valid ID. Centerstage is located just a few minutes away at 700 N. Calvert St. Visit <http://www.centerstage.org>.

Friday, April 25

Baltimore Green Week. (Runs until Thursday, May 1) A week-long program comprising of community events, forums, lectures and hands-on activities throughout the city to increase awareness of how to make the region environmentally friendly. For details, visit <http://www.baltimoregreenweek.org>.

8 p.m. Lost in Electroland. (Also plays on Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.) The Chocolate Factory Performance Collective and Towson University's MFA Theatre Program present *Lost in Electroland*. The show is a multimedia concert retelling of "Peter Pan" that examines the search for happiness in a culture obsessed with lifestyle. Live original music and a fully interactive sound and video design aid to tell the tale. Head to the Baltimore Theatre Project at 45 W. Preston St. for the last round of this great play; tickets can be purchased at <http://www.missiontix.com>.

Saturday, April 26

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Maryland Beer and Food Fest. (Also on Sunday, April 27 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

We wish we could say in earnest whether the Beer and Food Fest is gonna totally rock or not. The potential is there, though, what with tastings and sales from Guinness, Magic Hat, Dogfish Head and other breweries. Since this is the fest's first year, it might be worth heading to the Ripken Stadium at 873 Long Drive in Aberdeen if you've got a free afternoon. Entrance is \$15.

1 p.m. – 5 p.m. 12th Annual Brew Fest in Fells Point.

Hit Fells Point for four hours of brews hosted by *City Paper*. Participating breweries include Clipper City, Coors Brewing, DuClaw Brewery, Flying Dog Brewery, Miller, Oliver Brewing, Ramshad Tavern, Brewers Art and Heineken. Bought in advance, tickets are \$20, at the gate they are \$25. Call (410) 523-2300 for more information. Music, food, and prize will also be available, but you must be 21. It happens rain or shine, and proceeds go to the Fells Point Preservation Society. Tickets can be purchased at the 8x10 box office or at <http://www.missiontix.com>.

8 p.m. Ministry. Al Jourgensen and his bandmates that make up Ministry embark on what they're calling their final tour. Ram's Head Live (20 Market Place) hosts them for a bit of a pricey number. Visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for ticketing information.

Sunday, April 27

5 p.m. – 10 p.m. Sundays Sangria at Little Havana.

Paella for two and a pitcher of sangria all for \$20 is a pretty reasonable way to spend a Sunday afternoon, especially post-Spring Fair. Little Havana has outdoor seating right on the Harbor that could make for a pretty relaxed date. Little Havana Restaurant y Cantina is located at 1325A Key Highway right on the Harbor.

Monday, April 28

5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Cupcake Happy Hour at The Baltimore Cupcake Company.

Sure, you can head to happy hour at CVP, drink inordinate amounts and add some girth to that swelling waistline, or you could consider it a little more PG and head to Baltimore Cupcake Company's happy hour instead. For what you'd pay for a bottle of Miller Lite at other happy hours, you can get this more delicious treat instead. From 5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. all cupcakes are just \$1. Head to 1433 East Fort Avenue.

Wednesday, April 30

7 p.m. Panic at the Disco in D.C. This Las Vegas-based group puts on a notably good live show, not to mention you could have the chance to win a brand new Honda Civic as a part of their Honda Civic Tour. Performing with Panic at the Disco at the DAR Constitution Hall (1776 D St.), is Motion City Soundtrack, the Hush Sound and Phantom Planet. Check out <http://ticketmaster.com> for ticketing information.

Campus events

Thursday, April 24

8 p.m. – 10 p.m. HEAT Screening of Everything's Cool.

This comedic documentary tackles the issue of global warming and focuses on a group eager to change Americans' attitudes toward climate change. With time growing short, these people must defend the earth against people who would unwittingly destroy it. Eco-conscious celebs Salma Hayek and Jake Gyllenhaal, and writers and political activists such as Al Gore, make an appearance to help the cause. Head to Remsen 101 for the screening.

10 p.m. JHU Spring Fair FIREWORKS Kickoff Party!

Sponsored by Spring Fair, The HOP and StuCo, the Kickoff Party will take place at Levering Plaza, with fireworks starting around 10:30 p.m. There will be live music and drinks provided by our favorite local PJ's Pub.

Beers will be \$1 all night. There will be hookahs set up and free food as long as it lasts.

Friday, April 25

All Day: Spring Fair!

The Hopkins Spring Fair is one of the most fun-filled, well-attended college fairs in the area. It includes music, rides, games, crafts, food and a beer garden, natch. This year's headliners are Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and Reel Big Fish, performing Friday night on the practice field by the Rec Center. Purchase tickets (which are \$10 for Hopkins students) ahead of time! Visit <http://www.jhuspringfair.com> for more information on the festivities!

2 p.m. Spring Fair Beer Garden.

Come join the fun and long history of debauchery in Spring Fair's Naron-Charlton Beer Garden on the President's Garden. There will be tons of beer on tap and also sangria and Twisted Tea. Time table is as follows: Friday from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturday from 12

p.m. – 6 p.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.

PIKE Bike-A-Thon for a Cause.

Join the brothers of Pike on the beach during Spring Fair weekend to help us raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. We will be biking on the beach for 24 hours straight. There will be live music. There will be free T-shirts for the first 290 people who come. There will also be food and prizes for those who participate. Free Chipotle burritos with a \$2 donation; 100 percent of the donations go to St. Jude's Hospital. Visit <http://www.stjude.org> for more information on the cause.

Saturday, April 26

8 p.m. William Inge's Bus Stop.

Bus Stop is a romantic comic-drama often considered to be one of our classic American plays. Lives are transformed when travelers are stranded overnight at a small-town bus stop during a snowstorm. Head to the historic

Merrick Barn where student admittance is \$5.

8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Vocal Chords Spring Concert.

Come to Mudd Auditorium to see the Vocal Chords perform in a TV-themed night of hilarities for free.

Sunday, April 27

3 p.m. Hopkins Symphony Orchestra Concert

For its 25th anniversary season finale, the HSO presents Copland's Symphony No. 3 (Fanfare for the Common Man) and the premiere of Panariello's witty Triple Concerto for oboe, bassoon and piano conducted by Jed Gaylin. There will be a 2 p.m. talk with the composer, and admittance to Shriver is free for Hopkins students.

Tuesday, April 29

10 a.m. JHU Press Annual Book Sale.

The Johns Hopkins University Press Annual Book Sale. Books

Exposure

By Sammy Rose Saltzman



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Actors excel in new round of Witness plays

By SARAH ADDISON
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Witness Spring Showcase welcomed the audience to the dark side (of life) with the presentation of four new student-written plays this past weekend in Arellano Theater. All four of the plays explored the juxtaposition of life and death.

The first play of the evening was "Exchange," written by junior Erin Donohue and directed by senior Sal Gentile.

Though "Exchange" seemed to be a typical scene between members of the mafia, it turned out to be so much more than that.

The title suggested a double meaning, since the exchange referred to both the exchange of words over the "mix-up" and the exchange of money for some sort of prized object, and the rest of the one-act was also full of unexpected, funny and tragic twists.

Junior Oleg Shik and sophomore John Pontolillo were well cast as Frankie and Lorenzo, the bumbling pair who screwed up the Boss's plan.

In addition to directing "Exchange," Sal Gentile played the part of Emilio. Though the character had few speaking lines, Gentile added dimension to the role with facial expressions and background movements.

Senior Adar Eisenbruch stood out as Rocky, the peeved and vengeful mobster who was downright scary when he yelled at the other characters and threw



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Professor Aronheim (senior Paxson Trautman) tries to explain how the universe will end to a reporter (sophomore Jack Berger).

one of them against the wall.

When the Boss turned out to be a girl, it was a comical surprise, but senior Julie Sihilling played the tough, in-control leader better than a male actor would have.

The object that the Boss was getting in the exchange was a rare species of spotted gerbils, and the last line about getting the gerbils some water bottles once the package unexpectedly did make it, were both wittily choreographed, in spite of all the

dead bodies on the stage as the lights dimmed.

The second one-act, a monologue entitled "Baby Girl," was written by junior Laura Gordon and directed by juniors Kara Anderson and Erin Donohue.

The story involved life and death, but it took "creepy" in a whole new direction.

In a living room littered with beer bottles and trash, senior Rob Kasten played Rick, a seemingly normal working class man who just wanted the companionship with his girlfriend to last and hoped to start a family with her.

It was evident early on that Rick's relationship with his girlfriend was strained, but Rick's character ended up painting a gruesome picture about how screwed up he and his girlfriend really were.

Rick related how his girlfriend got pregnant and how, to the audience's horror, she drank bleach in order to kill herself and their fetus.

It gets worse, though. Rick describes getting home, finding the woman lying in the bathtub, cutting her stomach open to try to save his baby girl and succeeding for a second before she closed her eyes again "for good."

Then at the end, he gestures to a covered tank on a table behind him where he apparently keeps the dead, under-developed child.

"Baby Girl" showed how you

can never know the secrets of your neighbors in a dramatic and disturbing finale.

Kasten did a great job of capturing the audience despite the obvious difficulties of a one-man act.

As the story progressed, his speech became wilder, as one would expect from someone capable of performing a deranged act like keeping ones dead child in a tank of preservative chemicals.

The eeriness of this play as written cannot be understated, and Kasten's performance truly underscored it.

"Findings," the third performance of the night, was written by senior Sal Gentile and directed by freshman Kelly Chuang. It revolved around a scientist named Professor Aronheim.

Played by senior Paxson Trautman, Professor Aronheim presented his ambiguous theory of the universe which included the presumption that it is either big or really big, but added that it was hard to tell because the results were, as he put it, "inconclusive."

Trautman was excellent as the downtrodden Professor Aronheim, whose research was denied newspaper coverage because the Reporter, played by sophomore Jack Berger, thought his presentation was not exciting enough. Aronheim's proposal for funding also was rejected by

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Local musicians invent their own instruments

By ADAM LEMPEL
News-Letter Staff Writer

The electric guitar has been the definitive instrument in pop music for the last six decades, but few remember that in its time it was a radical invention. Now, a handful of Baltimore inventors are building their own radical instruments that may change the face of pop music for years to come. Some inventors are avant-garde purists chasing new sounds, while others have actually begun selling their instruments made-to-order online. Making your own musical instrument and hearing it played must be a surreal experience. Making a living off of your own instruments must be a godsend.

Peter Blasser does just that; he invents, constructs and sells his own musical instruments. The instruments range from the wild and wacky to ones that attempt to mimic the sounds of exotic musical instruments. Peter explains that it would be too expensive to buy one of these instruments, so he makes his own. While those he creates himself might not be perfect, it is the easiest way to

replicate the sound.

However, the most exciting thing that Blasser is up to is creating his own instruments from scratch. His Sidrassi Organ is based on the concept of the inherent randomness of music, and is a kind of synthesizer with big metal bars for keys, that is extremely touch-sensitive; if you press down slightly it will make a tiny sound, but it will grow louder and louder with the force of your touch.

Blasser also makes a point of having all his instruments constructed entirely out of found objects. For instance, a large piece of plastic that he found in a dumpster became the keys to one of his instruments, while the beautiful wooden casing of another comes from the Baltimore city tree graveyard. Blasser believes in a strict philosophy of environmental responsibility. He explains that recycling consumes tons of energy, so he ships all of his mail-order instruments in recyclable objects like used pizza boxes and old cardboard packages, which he believes is a much more efficient way to live sustainably.

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COURTESY OF PETER BLASSER
The ad for Blasser's instruments showcases both the typical and unexpected.

Baltimore realizes "It" city potential

By ALEX BEGLEY
Managing Editor

Anybody who has lived in Baltimore for the past few years could have seen this coming. Two years ago, people were wondering why it hadn't come yet.

Just two weeks ago, standing outside a sold-out Death Set/Matt & Kim show at Charles Street's boho Lo-Fi Social Club, the skater kids in spastic-print hoodies and the disaffected young people alike were talking about it again, wondering if it had finally come and gone with little fanfare or if something bigger was in store.

"It" is the recognition of the Baltimore scene.

This week two major music magazines, the aging *Rolling Stone* and the younger (trashier?) *Blender*, have pegged Baltimore as the place to watch.

To the chagrin of local journalists and scenesters, the megamags have focused their rather unhip attention on Baltimore.

The fear is that the scene, the charm of finding your way through H&H and seeing Wham City shows for free or close to it, will be lost.

In music and art often too much of a good thing means a lot of bad things move in to exploit and ruin it.

Will this national recognition draw more moths to the flame and boost up our sometimes low morale? Or is it a sign that the scene is over, that the underground has been exposed to daylight and is thus no longer cool? It all depends on how they spin it, and who actually reads these magazines.

Rolling Stone honored Baltimore in their "Best of Rock 2008" issue under the "Best Scene" heading.

In it they highlight the crammed shelves of Normals and the greasy southwest-style eats of Golden West, the Hamsterdam "best of Baltimore" mixtapes and of course Dan Deacon as bullet points on the city's checklist. Laid-back, BYOBoh warehouse venue, Floristree? Check. Spastic graphic-design-cum-punk-rock duo, Double Dagger? Check. Last great "these people actually know what they

are talking about" record store in the city, Sound Garden? Check.

The whole piece looks and feels like a space-filling prod, rather than a genuine probe, into the city's artful underground. But the Saturday nights at the Talking Head Club aren't getting especially crowded, and the waitlists at most Hampden restaurants are still reasonable, so we needn't worry just yet.

The *Blender* shout-out in their unsettlingly demanding "Go Here" section enlists the help of "big names" in their profile. Baltimore Club and hip-hop DJ Blaqstarr (of "Hands Up Thumbs Down" fame) and Geologist (of Animal Collective fame) point out some of Baltimore's finer features like Paradox (for the dancing), True Vine (for the vinyl and the live shows) and Faidley's Seafood (for, what else, the crab). The entire spotlight is only about half of a page — as opposed to the full-page picture collage that decorated the *Rolling Stone* coverage — and is accompanied by a simple map of the city.

Number five on the list, "best resource to plan your trip" is baltimorecrime.blogspot.com and a little jab at Baltimore's not-so-charming murder rate which is advertised nationally on *The Wire*. The starkly

simple blog has been mapping and following city crime since 2005 and *Blender* cites it, cheekily, as a way to figure out what city streets to avoid on your "windows-up, doors-locked tour of Bodymore, Murdaland." Oh *Blender*, every good Baltimorean knows that no block is any more or less safe than the other and some of the best times can be had on the dangerous ones. What up, Lexington Avenue?

With *Blender* doing their fair share of scaring (and baltimorecrime.blogspot.com is scary) and *Rolling Stone* doing little of anything, it's possible that Baltimore's fame will slip under the radar of the evil, scene-ruining losers that will inevitably fall upon the city and venture past the Inner Harbor (gasp) if, God forbid, *Spin* mentions it too.

But isn't it nice to say "I told you so," every now and then?

By ALEX VOCKROTH
Copy Editor

Waiting for Guffman it is not, but Zak Penn's new improv-style satire of championship poker, *The Grand*, still manages to pack in quite a few laughs, thanks to an ensemble cast overflowing with comedic talent.

Shot in the mockumentary style most often associated with Christopher Guest, the film follows six top poker players through

the Grand Championship, at the end of which the winner will be awarded \$10 million.

Woody Harrelson (*EdTV*, *Cheers*) plays Jack Faro, a multi-substance abuser who inherited Las Vegas's failing Rabbit's Foot Casino and wants desperately to keep it out of the hands of a greedy developer, played by mockumentary veteran Michael McKean (*This is Spinal Tap*, *Best in Show*).

The film may have benefited

from allowing McKean more opportunity to exercise his improv muscles. As it is, his scenes are too short and his character too narrow for McKean to have the room to be as entertaining as he is no doubt capable of being.

Considering Harrelson's recent repertoire, *The Grand* is a step in the right direction. The role of a stoned loser, not too ironically, suits him well. But Jack Faro's backstory ends up being too absurdly exaggerated to be truly hi-

larious. For example his estimate of having married 74 women in his lifetime is too unbelievable to get a laugh.

The other members of the Championship top six are Cheryl Hines (*Curb Your Enthusiasm*), David Cross (*Arrested Development*), Dennis Farina (*Law and Order*), Chris Parnell (*Saturday Night Live*) and Richard Kind (*Spin City*).

Hines and Cross play siblings who were raised to be competition addicts by their father, Gabe Kaplan (bearing little resemblance to his iconic Mr. Kotter).

All experienced improv artists, their scenes comprise a substantial portion of the film's laugh-out-loud moments.

Hines is impressively convincing as a foul-mouthed bitch, while Cross's role of the obnoxious but pitiable underdog plays to his acting strengths (in other words, *Arrested Development* fans will appreciate the parallels between this character and Tobias Fünke).

Farina, an old-timer who longs for the "glory days" of the Vegas strip, is a very believable curmudgeon, but much of his performance is lost in the mix of too many other exaggerated stories.

Similarly, Parnell's socially retarded, monotone sci-fi geek and Kind's cheery Internet poker champion constitute solid performances but ultimately add no real significance to the story.

Parnell's character, a late-20s outcast who wears T-shirts with mathematical equations and lives with his mother, is pathetic enough to

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COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.THEGRANDTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.THEGRANDTHEMOVIE.COM)
David Cross co-stars as Larry Schwartzman, a finalist in the Grand Championship of Poker, in Zak Penn's latest release, *The Grand*.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JHU film festival stretches boundaries

By ALEX BEGLEY
Managing Editor

Every year the Johns Hopkins Film Festival is still the best thing this campus has to offer by way of culture.

Talks by government leaders, readings by visiting big names, CultureFest and Ever-clear shows are included in that grouping.

The independent film festival has sold out. Four years ago *Napoleon Dynamite* showed at the Sundance Film Festival just a few days after Ashton Kutcher's *The Butterfly Effect* (a movie that was already set to open in theaters around the same time as the festival).

This year the Tribeca Film Festival is sponsored by American Express, Delta and Bloomberg.

The spirit of independent film is being snubbed out by the big movie companies who like to make easy money.

Every street corner of every town has hosted a film festival at some point or other. If you don't believe me then hit up the Oxnard Independent Film Festival in Oxnard, Calif., the lima bean capital of the United States, where the total population is under 200,000.

So what separates the Hopkins Film Festival from all the other independent film festivals? Why is the Film Festival culturally relevant on a campus that many would complain is dead?

For starters, the movies presented aren't necessarily new. Most of them have been made within the past 10 years which has given the movies enough time to drum up a solid reputation while still remaining relatively unknown.

This way the group of films being shown is widely diverse in the areas of topics, trends and styles.

The organizers aren't playing



COURTESY OF HTTP://MUSIC.MYNINJAPLEASE.COM
Chartchai Ngamsan starred as "Black Tiger" in *Tears of the Black Tiger*, one of many lesser-known films shown at the Festival.

to the masses — they're playing what they know and like, and the community should listen because they've got some pretty good taste.

On Friday night *The Tears of the Black Tiger* (2000) was shown on that beautiful Shriver Hall screen. Normally, the words "Thai" and "western" should never be used to describe one movie, but *Black Tiger* is no normal movie. In fact, it's the best movie I've seen all year.

In it, an immaculate Rumpoey (Stella Malucchi) pines for her rough-riding, incredibly sharp-shooting, lower-class lover Black Tiger (Chartchai Ngamsan) in the Thai-speaking equivalent of *Blazing Saddles* meets *Top Secret*.

As the ridiculousness of the film unfolds and the plot twists unexpectedly, we are led to believe that this film may not be

all fun and games and exploding heads.

The whole final scene was just insane, but not in a "why did I watch this?" way, but in a "why haven't I seen this before?" kind of way.

If this isn't evidence that the organizers aren't trying to torture us with theory-heavy Godard flicks but instead with thought-provoking, boundary-stretching cinema, then I'm not sure what is.

Rounding out the rest of the weekend were Michael Cuesta's 2001 coming of age piece *L.I.E., Night Fifty*, a documentary about the Mexican National Guitar Festival called *Guitar Holiday, Abel Raises Cain* — a glance into Alan Abel's life including a discussion by Abel — *The Delicate Art of the Rifle* — a bizarre take on the '66 UT shootings — and a few fan-

tastic documentaries.

So, with some choice films and very little pretense, the Film Festival has once again put on a spectacular show.

My only wish is that it had been longer and better promoted so that the turnout might have been more than a dozen people for a few of the showings.

Witness's year-end showcase entertains

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
Berkeley, played by junior Raphael Krut-Landau, because the findings that the universe would not cease to exist for billions of years were not relevant until the long-run (or the very long-run).

Although this play had less at stake compared to the other three, "Findings" was still thought-provoking in its combination of humorous and poignant moments.

Moreover, it capitalized on the use of props, like a model of the solar system, on the intervals without dialogue.

Also notable was its strong cast, which included Trautman, Berger, Krut-Landau and sophomore Rebecca Mathias, as the professor's spacey (no pun intended) assistant Karen.

The last one-act of the showcase, "Fish," was written by senior Joseph Micali and was directed by junior Jessica Aloe.

Krut-Landau played Kevin, who was fishing by himself until freshman Pierce Delahunt, as Jim, enters the scene and joins him.

Before long, it is revealed that Jim has shown up because Kevin has been ordered to kill him.

Logistically, it was not clear why the deed was to be done there, and it was never said what crime Jim committed, but those details are quickly forgotten as the play moves on.

In a last attempt to make peace with his life, Jim admits his love for Kevin, who initially is shocked before admitting his requited feelings.

In a moving performance that balances calmness and passion, Kevin and Jim discuss the injustice of the world and how maybe in another world they could live happily together.

In the final intense moments of the play, Kevin and Jim finally decide not to delay the inevitable any longer, but instead of shooting Jim, Kevin puts the gun to his own head.

Forced to see his dead love lying on the ground when he had hoped to die first, Jim shoots himself.

The tragedy is that now neither could have lived to tell the tragic tale, since Jim was the one who was sent to be killed at the beginning.

Although this spring's Witness Showcase was full of depressing plays, the high quality of writing, acting and directing in the short 45-minute duration made it difficult not to feel some sense of fulfillment after leaving the theater.

New Vibrations

ARTIST
M83
ALBUM
Saturdays=Youth
LABEL
Mute
RELEASED
April 15, 2008



Electronic albums can often capture an era or feeling better than any other genre. M83's new album is a perfect example. While their internationally acclaimed second album *Dead Cities, Red Seas & Lost Ghosts* was a haunting but organic ambient masterpiece, their new album escapes the morbidity and isolation of prior efforts and replaces it with a nostalgia for a decade. The decade in this case is the '80s, and for Frenchman Anthony Gonzalez represents his formative years.

The title is fitting considering most of the tracks could be right out of *The Breakfast Club*. It makes one reminisce about Saturday morning detentions and the kind of naive frivolity with which high school is lived.

In fact, the album seems like it could be a soundtrack for the strangest of John Hughes films. The cover art enforces this theme, and the dynamics of adolescence are present — costume party dancers join the anguished hipsters, and one can never forget the shy, attention-seeking quirky girl who intrigues everyone.

Saturdays=Youth captures more than just teenage angst; there is a sense of triumph, sort of an Emilio Estevez fist pump of ecstatic high fervor.

The album plays like a mix between shoe-gazing *My Bloody Valentine* and *Air* on the Virgin *Suicides* soundtrack. It would not be surprising to see one of these tracks on a movie soundtrack in the future, as they bring to mind scenes from plenty. The opening track "You Appearing" begins with a somber piano, but quickly

becomes immersed in layers of synths and voices. It transitions into the anthem-like love song "Kim & Jessie," which resembles the Cocteau twins at their peak.

Newcomer Morgan Kibby has an ideal voice to match Gonzalez's ambience on "Skin of the Night." Known for her voice-over work with *Harry Potter* and the *Goblet of Fire*, Kibby and Gonzalez apparently met on Myspace. Likened to Sally Shapiro, Kibby's lyrics help give a tangible message to Gonzalez's noise. On the album's second single "Graveyard Girl" she sings, "I'm 15 years old, and already I feel it's too late to live, don't you?"

This is exactly the kind of feeling *Saturdays* has, and its eeriness resonates throughout. The first single and perhaps the best song on the album is "Couleurs." A classic M83 track in composition, it incorporates a dance beat with depraved synths and a fluttering drum machine. The album closes with the 11-minute, 11-second "Midnight Souls Still Remain" — a kind of end-of-school ambivalence.

Saturdays's influences are clear, considering that Gonzalez worked with Ken Thomas (who also worked with Sigur Rós and Cocteau Twins) in recording. The album was produced by Ewan Pearson (*Ladytron*, *The Rapture*), and his work shows in the more upbeat tracks. *Saturdays=Youth's* album is almost nothing like M83's older albums but it does retain that ambient synthpop that *no one else can duplicate*. On top of that, it delivers in bringing a new front to M83 and a welcomed sense of sweetness.

—Ishan Dasgupta

Baltimore houses musical creativity

Musicians create original instruments and express their reverence for the environment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
Dan Conrad is another Baltimore artist who specializes in homemade instruments.

By day, Conrad is a high school physics teacher at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, though on his off time he has become a regular at the experimental jam sessions at the Red Room in the back of Normals Books and Records.

Conrad also set out to mimic an exotic instrument in building his first Veena Bameena. He attempted to imitate the Veena, a traditional Indian instrument that is said to emit a sound that connects directly to a person's spiritual center.

Conrad's version is a large metal pole about 10 feet tall that he plays standing up while sliding one hand up and down the singular string to fret it and plucking the strings with the other, or more commonly, smacking it violently.

Conrad's Veena Bameena operates on a unique principle whereby two sounds are emitted, emanating from the pickups on either side of the instrument, which pick up the sound from both sides of the fretted string.

Conrad may have also had an additional motive in creating his Veena Bameena. "I can't play the guitar or ukulele, but I can be the best at the Veena Bameena ... and I'm the only one who has one," Conrad explained.

The homemade instrument crowd seems to be tapping into a

larger Baltimore tradition of oddball inventions and homemade electronics. The experimental music scene at the Red Room can be traced back to Jon Berndt in 1996.

He started up the space as a place to showcase avant-garde improvisational music, and eventually a night known as "the crapshoot" arose where anyone with a new instrument who wished to test it out could come and jam around with other local musicians.

Conrad explains that this night was extremely important in providing a supportive non-critical atmosphere for him to test out his new ideas.

Conrad has also created an extremely popular instrument called the Chromaccord that plays color, not sound. It is a visual instrument meant to be played alongside traditional musical instruments that he originally conceived in the '70s.

It wasn't until the late '90s that the modern version, which uses a touch sensitive control that Conrad scored from a Hopkins researcher, surfaced.

The visual element of the Chromaccord was inspired by the color theory of Joseph Albers and consists of a rectangular box of hundreds of Christ-

mas bulbs whose colors can be manipulated in live time with the music.

Neil Feather is another Baltimore local who is fascinated by pushing the envelope on what we consider music.

He has become a fixture at the local High Zero festival, and he currently teaches sculpture at MICA. Feather seems to be drawn by the possibility of new sounds.

"I've always been drawn to the idea of iconoclasy, the idea of pushing frontiers," Feather said.

One of his most popular instruments is the Nondo, which is basically a large metal plate with a string

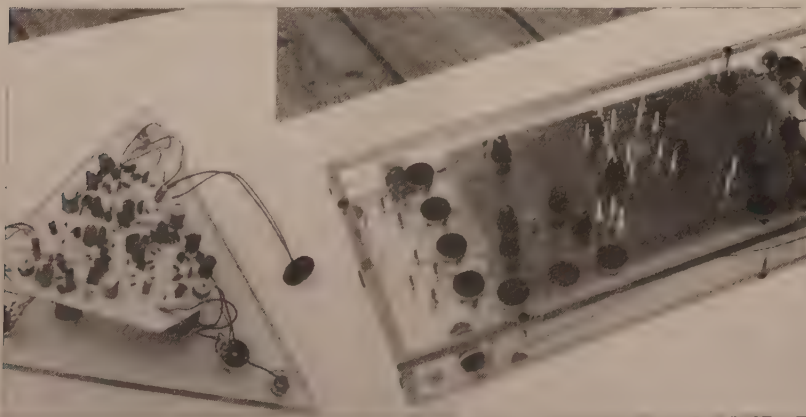
strewn across it that is generally played by rolling a heavy steel rod across the strings.

"You can't play traditional music very well with my instruments so it sort of frees you up to play and think differently," Feather said. Changing the way in which we interact with musical instruments changes the way in which we play them.

It seems that Baltimore has an unusual community of inventors who make instruments. Part of this phenomenon, no doubt, is due to the fact of the thriving music community here.

Conrad points to the general oddball culture of the city as a reference and said, "Baltimore, to a great extent, is 'what the f—.' Our great cultural hero is John Waters for Christ's sake."

When the general inventiveness and eccentricity of the city collide with its love of music, it seems only natural that a community of homemade instrument makers should flourish.



COURTESY OF PETER BLASSER

Blaser's designs appear intricate and strange, but they are designed to mimic exotic instruments.

ARTIST
Barry Adamson
ALBUM
Back to the Cat
LABEL
Central Control
RELEASED
April 22, 2008



and we still love them.

I was prepared for a trip back in time with Barry Adamson's new album, *Back to the Cat*. Adamson's soulful voice, jazz influences and syncopated grooves bring us back to a time of jacket-required clubs, gimlets and unfiltered cigarettes.

But then, Adamson isn't stuck in the past. He brings a modern touch to all his tracks; these songs clearly were not written in the 1950s.

So perhaps, it is not entirely correct to say "a trip back in time." Instead, just prepare yourself for a trip.

Adamson, notably, was formerly a bassist for Nick Cave's band the Bad Seeds. He had a colorful career with the Bad Seeds, as well as Magazine and Visage, and also did soundtrack work for David Lynch. Despite all this, he has still managed to make a slew of solo records — with *Back to the Cat* being the latest.

On the opening "The Beaten Side of Town," Adamson establishes the mood for the whole album. His voice moves with the horns and drums to produce a slow but powerful jazz track.

On the more upbeat "Straight 'Til Sunrise," one cannot help but tap toes and snap fingers to the beat. The horn section in the background is a bit reminiscent of Chicago, while the electric organ solo plants us even more firmly in the 20th century.

An impressive organ solo borders on being temporally misplaced, though — how many organ solos have we heard in the last 50 years? But then, the same thing could be said for guitars,

The third track, "Spend A Little Time," channels Elvis impeccably, while simultaneously presenting all the cockiness of Led Zeppelin. Images of hip-grating and disapproving Depression era-raised mothers are unavoidable.

Also on the album are a few impressive instrumental tracks, among which "Shadow of Death" stands particularly strong. The bluesy, punchy guitar refrain really nails it in this chiuil track.

A great example of the modern influences to Adamson's bluesy music is on the track "Walk on Fire." An early-'90s drumbeat backs a blues guitar, and Adamson's voice eventually gives way to an '80s-style guitar solo.

Despite the mishmash of influences, the track doesn't feel disjointed at all, a testament to Adamson's musical mastery (this is, after all his ninth solo album).

The antepenultimate "Civilization" is not the best on the album, however. Adamson's warbly crooning comes off as a little silly, preventing any serious consideration of the track.

Adamson closes on a quieter note, with the downtempo "Psycho Sexual." It closes out with a classic jazz resolution, holding out a note to decrescendo.

Barry Adamson's given us yet another gem with *Back to the Cat*. Flaws exist, certainly, but it's a good listen for a modern take on an old-time feel.

—John Kernan

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

French friends are compared in BMA exhibit

The exhibit on Bonnard and Vuillard traces their careers through cultural club meetings and a shared love of lithography

By SARAH SABSHON
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Tucked inside the Cone Collection at the Baltimore Museum of Art, a new exhibit traces the careers of two French artists, Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947) and Édouard Vuillard (1868-1940.)

Having met in art school and then joined the cultural group *Les Nabis*, a post-Impressionistic avant-garde club that led the French art world in the 1890s, the two artists quickly became friends.

The shared influences are extremely evident, especially in the earlier works of the two artists. They both experimented with flat, patterned surfaces, arbitrary color, expressive lines and unusual points of view.

However, despite the similarities, Bonnard and Vuillard had their distinctive flairs. Bonnard was often called the "Japanese

Nabi" because he was greatly influenced by Japanese ukiyo-e woodcuts.

His early work featured unusual cropping, long and narrow forms, and highly detailed use of pattern; the latter became a highly recognizable motif throughout Bonnard's work.

These distinct characteristics are easily seen in the first piece in the exhibit, titled *Family Scene*.

Bonnard believed strongly that art should be a part of everyday life and therefore used it as his unfailing subject throughout his work.

Vuillard, on the other hand, favored more delicate, domestic scenes that focused on the use of light and subtle palettes.

His work is often blurred and soft with a focus on the atmosphere and "feeling" of the piece rather than the actual subjects.

The BMA exhibit does a nice

job of contrasting the two artists' works. This is especially true at the beginning when two Bonnard prints, one personal and one commercial, are placed adjacent to two Vuillard pieces, one commercial and one personal.

One of the important aspects of both these artists' lives — and this is accentuated by the exhibit — is that they both designed posters, theater programs and advertisements to help



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
Bonnard favored bright colors and more impressionistic details later in his career.

pay their bills.

Vuillard worked almost entirely in the theater business while Bonnard contributed to a famous French literary magazine, *La Revue blanche*.

Both artists found lithography one of the most liberating mediums and most of their work on display at the exhibit are prints.

Printmaking allowed them to experiment with vibrant colors, typography and unique perspectives.

One of the highlights of the exhibit is the six-part series by Vuillard called *The Pastry Shop*. The breakdown of the one print enables the viewer to see the complexity of a lithograph.

The first room of the intimate exhibit showcased the early years of the two artists, primarily in the 1890s, when they were still members of *Les Nabis*. The similarities between the two artists are remarkable.

However, once *Nabis* disbanded

in the early 20th century, the artists went their separate ways stylistically.

Bonnard moved away from Paris, down to the Côte d'Azur with his wife and began to focus more on countryside landscapes and simplistic still lifes. He also adapted more of an impressionistic style and preferred a brighter palette.

Vuillard produced more landscapes and decorative panels. Toward his last few years, he focused solely on portraiture. His color usage veered to a much paler side.

The BMA exhibit displays the work of Bonnard and Vuillard in an unobtrusive manner—one could barely tell it was a new exhibit.

The collection certainly contained more 1890s Vuillard and more 1900s Bonnard. Yet the inequality in quantity did not temper the quietly well done comparison of these two good friends.

Humorous actors can't save plotless *The Grand*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

be really funny. Unfortunately his scenes consist mostly of easy one-liners. Kind is perfectly cast as the happy-go-lucky idiot from an obscure small town, a character he has played in many roles. Ultimately, though, his scenes are forgettable amid the tangled web of sidestories in the film.

Fault cannot be placed with these actors and their respective characters, however, as *The*

Grand offers little in the way of plot and, thus, little substance with which the performers can work.

With an overwhelming volume of exceedingly absurd stories, Penn is unable to create a cohesive work.

Instead of keeping the satire centered on televised poker and the six finalists, the film loses focus by shifting between stories about the minor characters, like a poker-loser-turned-commentator who has written a series of self-help books for poker-champion wannabes.

The film flashes to clips of infomercials for the products, which are cleverly titled *Winning is Winning* and *Winning is Really Winning*. The premise is funny, granted, especially the oversized flash-cards designed to aid newbies in memorizing a standard deck of playing cards, but it is left dangling because there is simply too much going on.

Still, some of the most enjoyable performances are found in these tangential scenes.

The Grand is riddled with scenes featuring great comedic actors. The always entertaining Hank Azaria plays the leader of the Bust-You Crew, a poker-playing trio of slackers.

Ray Romano, as Hines's meek husband who occupies his time

with Fantasy Football (the Expert League), manages to develop a hilarious and interesting character with the little screen-time he has.

Jason Alexander, Judy Greer and Werner Herzog, as well as

real-life poker greats Phil Gordon and Phil Hellmuth, also make appearances worth mentioning, among others.

In his direction, Penn brings nothing groundbreaking to the mock-

kumentary genre, though this film is only his second effort as a director (the first being another mockumentary, 2004's *Incident at Loch Ness*), so he has room to grow.

In *The Grand*, he seems indecisive about the style of the film, as he jumps from straight documentary-style to the traditional third-person to a recreation of a TV-poker special. Penn does make a number of unique choices, notably, the effective use of graphics as exposition and scene transitions.

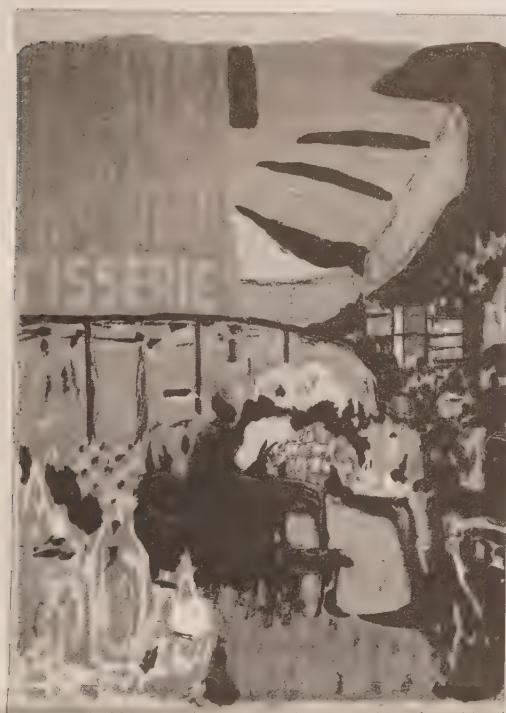
Penn appears to be on the way to establishing his personal direction style, but perhaps he should hand over his Writer's Guild card: He co-wrote *The Grand*'s uneven screenplay, adding to a resumé of embarrassing credits such as the *X-Men* films, *Inspector Gadget* and a 1993 Razzie winner, *Last Action Hero*.

Considering *The Grand*'s lackluster attempt at mockumentary satire along with last year's mediocre Guest effort, *For Your Consideration*, perhaps filmmakers should concede that the genre is losing its edge.

Like *The Grand*, these films will always be entertaining and feature a few noteworthy moments, but it will take another *Borat* to return them to the high favor of cult-comedy film buffs.

THE GRAND

Starring: Woody Harrelson, Cheryl Hines, David Cross
Director: Zak Penn
Run Time: 104 min.
Rating: R
Playing at: The Charles



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
Early on, Vuillard used heavy pigments and light effects.

Pulling all nighters and eating mac and cheese is about to pay off.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Molecule helps wiring of fight-or-flight response

By **BEN KALLMAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

A group of Hopkins scientists lead by David Ginty of the School of Medicine has discovered new evidence about the development of our stress response system. Their results were published in the April 10 issue of *Nature*.

The “fight or flight” response, as it’s called, is a term familiar to most. As an innate response, it governs our behaviors at crucial moments, letting our bodies take the wheel and allowing us to focus our attention on what’s coming.

Digestion slows to a crawl, heart rate increases, blood vessels constrict and dilate to attain maximum flow, pupils expand. The bladder becomes relaxed, resulting in wet pants and, often, wounded pride.

While the signs of “fight or flight” are tell-tale, the identity of the responsible network of neurons — the sympathetic nervous system — is less well-known. In the field of neuroscience, the central nervous system (CNS) usually gets all the attention.

Within the last few decades, the huge amounts of money and time poured into the study of the CNS have paid dividends. Never before has so much been known about how the brain and spinal cord work. But, at the same time, the CNS’s siblings have been unduly ignored.

Until recently, what was known about the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems, jointly referred to as the autonomic nervous system, could be summed up in two pithy phrases: The parasympathetic nervous system was said to handle the body’s “rest and digest” functions, while the sympathetic nervous system dealt with its (you guessed it) “fight or flight” response.

Exactly how these systems

develop, however, was mostly unclear. The sympathetic nervous system includes groups of neurons, called ganglia, whose cell bodies sit on either side of the spinal cord and which send their axons — the neuron’s long, communicating “arms” — to a wide range of targets, including glands, intestinal and cardiac muscles and blood vessels.

The biggest unanswered question was the way sympathetic neurons find their way passed hundreds of blood vessels, muscles and organs to end up at precisely the “right” spot. One theory held that ganglia neurons grow randomly, contacting intermediate targets along the way, until they eventually encounter some signal exuded from their target that tells them to stop permanently.

Alternatively, sympathetic neurons could be “preprogrammed.” In other words, groups of neurons could be molecularly distinct, with each population of similar composition hooking up with the same target.

If this were true, the neurons would have to be somehow guided by a freely-moving, diffusible factor, telling them where to turn left or right or head up or down. It was precisely this type of factor — termed an axonal guidance cue — that the authors sought to identify.

They looked in particular at an especially promising group of candidate molecules called en-



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The internal and external carotid arteries regulate their associated nerves via endothelin molecules.

dothelins. The potential of endothelins as axonal guidance cues stems from a peculiarity of blood vessel development.

The internal carotid arteries and external carotid arteries — two vital vascular connections that feed the oxygen-hungry brain — come from two distinct areas of the developing organism. Thus, they each attract a particular subset of sympathetic neurons, which the other either does not attract or repel.

With this in mind, the researchers uncovered the presence of a critical activating protein, without which endothelins remain in an inactive state, in only the external carotid.

Nonetheless, this finding

alone was not sufficient to provide that endothelins actually guide neuron growth. However, the team observed that bathing growing sympathetic neurons in three types of endothelin caused rapid and robust growth of their axons.

More importantly, developing sympathetic neurons actually grew toward areas of high endothelin concentration.

Assuming that endothelins bind to a corresponding receptor and that this binding somehow signals to the neurons where to turn and how fast to grow, the researchers applied a specific endothelin-receptor antagonist, and the effect they observed — a complete elimination of any axon growth — supported their assumption.

The team concluded that cells of the external carotid release endothelins, which direct sympathetic neurons to grow toward and to connect with specific target organs. In particular, they suggest that sympathetic neurons use the external carotid as a scaffold of sorts, using it as a guide toward other areas, including the salivary glands.

Nonetheless, this mechanism may be limited to growth along the external carotid; endothelins may have different effects in different parts of the brain.

Brain tumor treatment uses radiation and gene therapy

By **SAM OHMER**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Though several treatments exist to combat cancer, many can be painful and draining, and have grave risks associated with them despite their great benefits.

A new treatment under development at Hopkins uses gene therapy to treat cancers, which might afford more precision with fewer side effects.

Kam Leong and colleagues from the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center are working on a way to use a dual attack of radiation and gene therapy to treat brain tumors specifically, sparing healthy tissue.

The research group engineered a virus that could deliver an artificial segment of DNA into cancer cells. The DNA codes for caspase-8, a protein that is part of the cell death or apoptosis pathway. Activating caspase-8 should cause cells to die.

The linchpin of this group’s approach is how the caspase-8 gene is controlled. The promoter sequence of the gene, which tells the cell when to activate a gene, included the sequence for another gene called early growth response factor, or Egr-1, which is activated by radiation.

The activity of this viral protein effectively allows researchers — and potentially doctors — to selectively kill cancer cells by exposing them to radiation.

Rather than traditional radiation therapy, which damages cells directly, this radiation activates the caspase-8 gene and therefore the cell death pathway.

The method works well in early experiments. The team found they could induce increased levels of cancer cell death while generally sparing healthy tissues, because radiation therapy allows the doctor to control the site of treatment both spatially and temporally, allowing more accurate and efficient cancer treatment.

Malignant brain tumors are among the more deadly and difficult to treat of all cancers. One problem is that the tumorous cells seem to be able to resist deaths, even against the onslaught of the most potent cancer treatments.

Caspase-8 became a clear possibility next to other genes already shown to induce cell death. It can induce apoptosis in cancer cells without requiring doctors to overload patients with treatment.

There are several obstacles to be overcome before this therapy can be tested in humans. One of them is the virus, which is notoriously difficult to deliver to the desired areas and could itself be unsafe.

Nevertheless, radiation-induced gene therapy is a promising alternative to either radiation or gene therapy alone for brain tumors. The double-whammy approach could work out well.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.NIH.GOV](http://www.nih.gov)
Genetic therapies for cancer and other diseases are starting to become a reality.

Malaria increases HIV risk for babies

By **JOCELYN WAGMAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Pregnant women who are HIV-positive are more likely to transmit the HIV virus to their babies if they are also infected with malaria, a new study by investigators at the Bloomberg School of Public Health has found.

“Our hypothesis was that since malaria infection increased the HIV viral load of HIV-positive mothers and the HIV viral load is the most significant contributor of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT), we expected that pregnant women co-infected with HIV and malaria should have an increased risk of MTCT,” said Heena Brahmbhatt, the principal investigator of the study.

Brahmbhatt and her colleagues studied 109 HIV-positive mothers in rural Rakai, Uganda. Brahmbhatt became interested in the effects of HIV and malaria co-infection on MTCT while doing her thesis research.

“In the 1990s some researchers began to look into the association of malaria and HIV co-infection, but none found any increase in Mother-To-Child HIV Transmission risk. During my thesis research, I explored the risk of MTCT associated with malaria co-infection and found an increased risk of MTCT among HIV-positive mothers co-infected with malaria during pregnancy. Ours was the first study that found this increase in MTCT risk.”

Brahmbhatt’s latest study, published earlier this month in *The Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, found that pregnant women co-infected with placental malaria and HIV are at a higher risk for having low birth weight babies than non-infected mothers.

Furthermore, low birth weight infants have a greater chance of contracting HIV through Mother-To-Child-Transmission than infants with normal weights.

These findings suggest that the prevention of malaria for pregnant women is extremely important.

“If HIV-positive mothers co-infected with placental malaria are at an increased risk of transmit-

ting HIV to their infants, malaria prophylaxis during pregnancy becomes an urgent priority, not only because of the adverse impact of malaria infection during pregnancy, but because co-infection could potentially increase the risk of vertical transmission of HIV,” Brahmbhatt said.

Fortunately, malaria prophylaxis, or prevention, is possible.

“Malaria prophylaxis during pregnancy is an affordable and logistically feasible intervention that could potentially reduce the risk of adverse birth outcomes and MTCT among pregnant HIV-positive women at risk of malaria infection,” Brahmbhatt said.

The World Health Organization recommends that women receive two doses of drugs that prevent malaria during pregnancy. Currently there are “several programs in developing countries that provide insecticide impregnated bed nets to pregnant women,” Brahmbhatt said, “as well as encourage all pregnant women to come in for their antenatal visit where they may acquire malaria prophylaxis as well as get tested for HIV.”

But because of the rural environment and extreme poverty of areas like Rakai, “the majority of pregnant women are still not tested for HIV nor do they get the basic two doses of malaria prophylaxis during pregnancy,” Brahmbhatt said.

“It is important that these research findings are translated into changes in the field. Efforts need to keep focusing on increasing the number of women who come in for their antenatal visit as well as have access to malaria and HIV prevention and treatment services.”

However, there are many technical challenges associated with the detection of placental malaria. Some-

times only a small section of the placenta is actually infected, and it is often hit-or-miss whether that section is tested. Despite these challenges, Brahmbhatt hopes to continue studying the implications of HIV and malaria co-infections.

“We are discussing other potential studies such as assessing the interaction of malaria and HIV drugs. Very little is known about the potential adverse effects of interactions between these drugs as well as the challenges in integrating HIV and malaria prevention and treatment effort,” Brahmbhatt said.

The physical effects of HIV and malaria co-infections are very serious, as this study has shown. However, the economic and social consequences are also of importance.

“Clearly, both [HIV and malaria] have an economic impact because either household heads or dependents infected with either disease drain the resources of the family with the medical care and nutritional requirements, and co-infection exacerbates these consequences,” Brahmbhatt said.

“HIV-infection has a lot of stigma associated with it, and HIV-positive individuals co-infected with malaria are more likely to be sicker and at risk of being detected as HIV-positive by members of the community.”



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.UN.ORG](http://www.un.org)
Malaria co-infection increases HIV transmission from mothers.

Support cells modify Lou Gehrig’s Disease

By **DEANNA CHIECO**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Glial cells, the supporting cells of the nervous system, are present everywhere in your brain and spinal cord and help with communication between neurons.

Despite their supportive role in the healthy nervous system, these glial cells can undergo functional changes after a brain injury or during illness that make it harder for the nervous system to heal.

A group of Hopkins researchers led by Nicholas Maragakis, a neurologist at the School of Medicine, examined the role of glial cells in the neurodegenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known as ALS or Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

ALS involves the progressive degeneration of motor neurons, which transmit signals from the brain that tell muscles what to do, and eventually leads to weakness, paralysis and death.

The researchers examined how the growth or proliferation of astrocytes, a type of glial cell found throughout the central nervous system, could play a role in the cause of ALS.

Following an injury, astrocytes undergo a process called reactive astrogliosis, in which they lose their normal functioning and exhibit altered gene expression.

In a healthy nervous system, astrocytes play a supporting role which consists of regulating neurotransmitter and ion uptake as well as preventing toxins in the blood from reaching the brain.

However, if astrocytes become

reactive, they can lead to the death of their neighboring neurons because of the loss of vital functions.

Working from previous evidence that reactive astrogliosis was important in neurodegenerative disorders, this group of researchers investigated a connection between the proliferation of these reactive astrocytes and ALS.

They used two mouse models that were genetically modified to express either an acute or chronic form of motor neuron disease. Markers were used to label dividing astrocytes in tissue sections for each mouse model. Astrocytes and motor neurons in the lower region of the spinal cord were the main area of focus.

The acute model represents the immediate cellular changes following a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury. In this model, they found that astrocyte proliferation was reduced in the disease model as compared to a wild-type mouse.

However, if these proliferating astrocytes were ablated, or removed, there was not a significant decrease in the number of reactive glial cells.

They concluded that proliferating astrocytes were not a large component of the reactive astrocytes contributing to acute motor

neuron disease.

The chronic mouse model, which implies a slower onset and progression of disease-like symptoms, is more representative of ALS. In this case, the number of proliferating astrocytes was also reduced but found not to be the main contributor to reactive astrogliosis.

Additionally, if the proliferating astrocytes were ablated, the disease-like symptoms were

retained, indicating that cell death of motor neurons was still occurring.

In each of these models, there was an increase in the number of astrocytes present, though they may not have been actively dividing

at the time.

For a chronic disease like ALS, if large numbers of astrocytes proliferate over a long period of time, there could still be a significant effect on astrogliosis.

Though the researchers did not find improved symptoms if proliferating astrocytes were ablated, they were able to better define the role of these astrocytes in terms of nervous system injury and degeneration.

They determined that proliferating astrocytes are a relatively small contributor to the symptoms of the disease, but that they are in fact present in reactive astrogliosis.

Glial cells can undergo functional changes after a brain injury or during illness that make it harder for the nervous system to heal.

Older kids, you're right: Parents are harder on you

By TIFFANY NG
News-Letter Staff Writer

When it comes to sibling relationships, fairness rarely comes into play. If you're the older sibling, you probably have quite a few grievances, like not being allowed to watch a PG-13 movie until you were actually 13, whereas little Bobby got to watch them at 10, having a 10 o'clock curfew which was pushed back to midnight for your younger sister, and the list goes on.

For the younger siblings reading this article, you can bask in the glory of that which is unjust: researchers at Hopkins's sociology department recently published a study confirming this lack of equality in parental discipline.

The study, which was headed by Lingxin Hao, sought to determine whether parents punished older children more harshly for risky behavior, particularly dropping out of high school and having children in their teens.

Using game theory, Hao discovered that parents enforce stricter punishments on the oldest child so they can set an example for the younger siblings by indicating that they disapprove of such behaviors.

The greater the number of younger children in the family, the more likely are parents to enforce harsher punishments on the eldest child.

However, following through with these punishments declines with younger siblings when they become teenagers, as there are fewer children in the house and parents lose the energy and willpower to be the tough disciplinarians.

For only children, behavior mirrors that of the younger siblings: Parents cannot make an example of an only child by punishing her, so they punish her less often.

Compare Liesl, the oldest of seven in *The Sound of Music* ("You're not going to tell Father, are you?") with Veruca Salt, an only child in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* ("I want an Oompa-Loompa and I want one NOW!").

By measuring the parental responses to teenage childbirth and dropping out of high school, Hao found that parents were more lenient toward younger siblings in these situations, providing them with more support into

adulthood compared with their older brothers or sisters.

Furthermore, older children committed significantly fewer risky behaviors compared with their younger

siblings. The common stereotype depicting the oldest child as the diligent, responsible one and the youngest as the class clown may actually have a scientific basis.

In the realm of parenting, this means that a "No means no" attitude can be effective. Parents should foremost establish a reputation of consistently punishing bad behavior and rewarding good behavior.

Even the declining number of children per family may contribute to the purported rise in spoiled kids. With fewer siblings around, discipline may be lacking because there are fewer younger kids who need an example.

So the next time you complain to your parents that they're being unfair to you (if you're older), pull out this article and prove you're right.

Brightest gamma ray burst observed

Did you see that? Astronomers have observed the brightest burst of visible light ever recorded in the night sky. The culprit is a powerful explosion that took place 7.5 billion years ago — when the universe was half as old as it is today.

Scientists from the University of Leicester and the University of Warwick, both in the United Kingdom, used the Hubble telescope to image a gamma ray burst in the constellation Bootes, called the "Bear Watcher" because of its proximity to Ursa Major and Ursa Minor.

Most gamma ray bursts, such as this one, are thought to occur when a massive star collapses into a black hole. Tremendous amounts of energy are produced in the electromagnetic spectrum,

including highly-energetic gamma rays as well as visible light.

The burst, which was observed for about a minute on March 19, was equivalent to the light from 10 million galaxies. Observed gamma ray bursts typically last in the millisecond to second range, so a minute-long burst is unusual.

When the astronomers looked at it again three weeks later, the light from the burst was still far brighter than light from the surrounding galaxy. Typically, all detectable traces of a gamma ray burst disappear almost immediately after the event. Gamma ray bursts are among the most energetic events known in the universe.

The star responsible for this massive burst was likely 50 times larger than our own Sun, which could explain both the magnitude of the burst and the time period of the subsequent radiation. Follow-up observations are planned over the next month to further study this record-breaking cosmic explosion.



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The gamma ray burst designated GRB 080319B, at bottom, is the largest ever seen.

Space News Briefs

Soyuz spacecraft's rocky ride to Earth

The Soyuz spacecraft experienced its second rough landing in a row over the weekend, raising concerns over its safety just as it is poised to take on a larger role in the post-shuttle era.

The Russian-built capsule experienced a "ballistic reentry" on its approach to its landing site in Kazakhstan on Saturday. The Soyuz landed approximately 260 miles away from its target, but the crew of three was unharmed.

The Soyuz spacecrafts are often used to ferry crew and supplies to and from the International Space Station. They will be relied on exclusively for several years after the U.S. space shuttle is retired in 2010.

The cause of the problem was not immediately clear, but an investigation by a Russian commission is already underway. A rocket propulsion module that was supposed to jettison early in the descent failed to do so. The Soyuz capsule had passed inspection in orbit before reentry.

Two long-term occupants of the space station, American astronaut Peggy Whitson and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malchenko were returning to Earth after a six-month stay in orbit. Also on board was Yi So-yeon, South Korea's first astronaut who spent 10 days carrying out experiments on the station.

The three astronauts reported high acceleration, or G-forces, upon reentry, as well as an unusually rocky ride. In a ballistic reentry, the capsule falls through the atmosphere at a steeper than expected angle. Ordinarily, a parachute and rockets control the capsule's fall.

Astronauts returning to Earth in October 2007 experienced a similar ballistic landing, as did a third Soyuz crew in 2003. NASA administrators were reportedly not concerned about the overall safety of the Soyuz program.

APL releases online map of Martian surface

Several years' worth of observations of Mars are now available in an online database for scientists and the public, thanks to scientists from the Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory as well as NASA.

The database offers a treasure trove of information about the forces shaping the Martian surface over time, including the possibility of flowing water.

The Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars, or CRISM, provides the data for the Web site. CRISM is an APL-constructed instrument on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which has been observing Mars from up close since 2006.

CRISM measures the unique visible signatures of different chemicals to determine the mineral content of the Martian surface. This data is invaluable for scientists interested in geologic forces operating on the planet.

In the minds of many, however, the most important function of CRISM and the other instruments on board the orbiter is the search for water, past or present. Water would lead to the formation of distinctive mineral deposits on the Martian surface, so CRISM is an active part of this search.

Scientists have taken raw data from CRISM and broken it down into images and maps that show the distribution of various minerals throughout the Red Planet's surface. Water and carbon dioxide ice, several types of iron and iron-containing minerals and clay-like compounds are visible.

The database is available free-of-charge at <http://crism-map.jhuapl.edu>. It is viewable in Firefox, Explorer and Netscape.

— All briefs by Stephen Berger

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Flirting via text is the new frontier of loving

By ELYSHA CHANG
For The News-Letter

Technology has made the lives of “kids these days” pretty easy. When was the last time you didn’t know who was calling you before you answered the phone? Researched a project by looking in one of those library reference books? Hand-wrote a letter to a dear friend? Unless you’re some kind of landline-using, reference-book reading, letter-writing weirdo, chances are you probably gave up on these practices when they were rendered inefficient by more advanced technology. But are my grandma, that cashier from Safeway and other experts right in calling our generation socially lazy? Have we really lost our sense of etiquette and other social niceties because we don’t communicate face-to-face as much as older generations did?

Please, Grandma. Don’t be ridiculous.

I’d like to direct your attention to one of the most complex social miracles of the 21st century: text messaging. I remember a simpler

time when I was in high school. My mom asked me if I wanted to add texting to our Verizon plan. “Mom,” I scoffed, “texting is so lame. If I need to talk to some-



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

one, I’ll just call them. I’m not lame. You’re lame. Everything is so lame. No one understands me.

I hate high school.” Et cetera, et cetera. Little did I know that, several years down the road, I would be T9-ing and g2g-ing like my life depended on it.

Texting is a quick and casual way to invite someone over, wish someone a happy Passover, initiate a booty call and so on without obligating the recipient in any way. It also cuts out the awkward phone conversation you might have with, say, a prospective lover. And we all know that awkwardness and scoring are negatively correlated.

For this reason, many young folks now resort to texting as a means of shyly testing the waters of romance. No text response? That’s okay. The host invites another friend over, the holiday well-wisher eats his matzo, the drunken booty-caller falls asleep, and the seeker of romance is back on the prowl. No harm done, right?

Hm. Let us turn to a friend of mine who, interested in pursuing some female companionship, innocently texted a potential mate to “come hang out with some peeps” and to “bring Carol,” her roommate. The night wore on, but not a ring was heard nor a vibration felt from our protagonist’s phone. Late the next morning, our friend received this text: “It’s actually Caro. Not Carol. Sometimes people get it confused.” Ouch. Harm definitely done.

You see, texting is an art more complex and subtle than the casual observer might think. In this situation, “It’s actually Caro” was like code for “Sorry buddy, I don’t want to hang out with you.”

Texting doesn’t eliminate rejection from the dating game, but if you really work at it, you

can certainly diminish the gut-wrenching pain of that rejection by mastering some texting techniques.

One technique is the casual — but — cool text. Keeping your texts brief and seemingly disinterested keeps you from being invested in the recipient’s response. Take, for example, a young man who texted me several times last month with the same casual, carefree message: “CVP?”

See how casual and cool he kept it?

Mr. Casual Carefree had certainly mastered the non-committal, casual-but-cool text, but beyond the simple bar-name-followed-by-question-mark approach is another subtle textual form: the flirtatious text. The flex, if you will. As your rapport with a potential love interest develops, you can’t just keep it casual and cool. Like the peacock displaying its colorful plume, you must display your cleverness and wit through the flex.

This guy was, unfortunately, lacking in the flex department. I remember one time in particular when he responded to one of my gems with “Haha, you send pretty funny texts.” Haha? I send pretty funny texts? Maybe he just needed a bit of a warm-up. I set my dignity aside and responded with, “I’m a pretty funny girl.” I’ll admit — it wasn’t witty, it wasn’t funny, and it certainly wasn’t subtle. But, as we all know, sometimes desperate times call for desperate measures. Moments later, I received this text: “Fair enough.” I’ll refrain from commenting on this one.

Normally I wouldn’t text and tell, but I know Mr. CC can handle it because, despite his lack of flexing game, he actually turned out to have a pretty good sense of humor. In fact, his texts didn’t really indicate what he would be like at all.

What can we learn from this little misunderstanding? Practice your texting/flexing game! Don’t let poor textual etiquette veil your cleverness. If you don’t express yourself through witty texts, you probably won’t ever get married. Furthermore, it would be silly to talk or flirt with your romantic interest right away. Who has that kind of time or patience? Only my grandma would do something ridiculous like that.

WHATCHA THINK?

What’s your favorite part of Spring Fair?



COURTESY OF ARIELA FRIEDMAN

“The chocolate-covered strawberries are amazing!”
— Ariela Friedman ‘09



COURTESY OF SARAH FEINMARK

“My favorite part is when they schedule it to happen at the same time as a holiday where my grain intake is restricted ... But, truthfully I really love seeing so many people around the campus enjoying the beautiful weather.”
— Sarah Feinmark ‘09



COURTESY OF ERICA BAUMAN

“The food!”
— Erica Bauman ‘10

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Cara Selick

Let this week’s playlist spring you into spring!

1. “Spring Fever,” by Elvis Presley

Spring evokes images of flowers blossoming, new life coming into the world ... and libidos warming up. And who better to get your hips gyrating in time for those magical spring days than the King himself?

2. “It Might As Well Be Spring,” by Frank Sinatra

When trying to compile a list of songs involving spring, Sinatra came up about a billion times. Almost literally. So many songs of his involved the seasons and springtime that it was hard to pick just one. However, I’m unusually partial to this song. Maybe because it was originally written for *Spring Fair* by Rodgers and Hammerstein, and I’m a musical theater dork. Plus, the word spring undoubtedly shows up more within this tune than any other ... ever ... by anyone.

3. “Pink Tea,” by Alien Ant Farm

Alien Ant Farm is mostly (or solely) known for their updated cover of Michael Jackson’s “Smooth Criminal.” And it was actually pretty awesome, and hard to top. Well, I don’t believe this song does top their first hit, but at least it’s about spring! “Spring is here/And we’re in full swing”

4. “Celtic Spring,” by Van Morrison

Besides “Moondance” and “Brown-Eyed Girl,” the average person tends not to know much Van Morrison. No, this song is not about that dance group on *America’s Got Talent*. Although Morrison does seem to echo “Moondance,” saying “Wanna dance by you by the light of the moon.”

5. “Everything Is Everything,” by Lauryn Hill

In my personal opinion, there is no bad Lauryn Hill song. Most are catchy, great beats and rhythms, and usually have a message as well. This is no exception. The video is neat, making the city into a record with a giant needle running around it. The positive message in this particular song? “After winter must come spring.” The songstress gives a shoutout to every young person struggling and says that everybody goes through it, but it all ends eventually. And the highlight of every Lauryn Hill song, she successfully blends great rapping with beautiful and unique singing. She can’t be beat.

6. “Lonesome Bulldog,” by Butthole Surfers

I won’t lie, I mostly just wanted to put this song in here to laugh at the name of the band. I’m not really sure how to classify or describe this song other than to give the final lyric: “So get alone, get alone little Mahatma Gandhi in the spring.” It’s weird, but if that’s your thing, check it out. Most of their other songs are better though, I promise.

7. “Changes,” by the Monkees

While the Monkees were extremely popular back in their day, they’re also often underrated now, probably because they were the product of a television show. This particular song is somewhat cliché, relating seasons to relationships and such. But it’s catchy and worth a listen, if you ask me.

8. “Moths,” by Jethro Tull

The grainy vocals of frontman Ian Anderson and the poetic lyrics are what makes this song work for me. The instrumentals themselves are somewhat too folksy for my taste, but it sure is something different than what we’re listening to nowadays. It nowhere even begins to compare with the amazing experimental rock sounds of Aqualung, but Jethro Tull has to be respected for trying to incorporate different genres within one band at the very least.

9. “Sweet Caroline,” by Neil Diamond

The sweetly addictive upbeat song about the love with Sweet Caroline which began in a spring which soon became a summer easily becomes a sing-a-long after only the first line. By now, most of us probably wish it was never written. Yet we’ll all keep singing along as long as it keeps playing.

10. “Some Other Spring,” by Billie Holiday

The pure poetry of this broken hearted love song paired with Billie Holiday’s unmistakable emotional voice makes magic. I just hope that none of you reading this have to wait until “some other spring” to find your love. Because Billie makes it sound absolutely tragic.

How not to be a jerk next time you go to a concert

Eleven helpful hints to clean up your concert etiquette and keep that big burly concert-goer next to you from getting angry!

By LAUREN MCGRATH
For The News-Letter

You’ve woken up at 7 a.m. to wait for the presale. You got the best tickets in the house. You’ve planned out transportation, the dinner and the post-concert party.

Excited, you arrive at the venue early and wait in front of the stage for your favorite band to come on ... only to find that someone who is 7-foot-9 has managed to slide in front of you, so that you have a nice view of her enormous head, which, at this moment, you would like to rip off with your bare hands. To make matters worse, she appears to have the worst rhythm of any living person on the planet, including Robin Williams, and she is doing a soul clap that resembles a gran mal seizure.

Worry no more. I am here to give you a top-10 list of concert no-no’s. Feel free to show them to friends, family, and coworkers whom you believe ... need to see them.

1. If you arrive at the concert early, you get to stand at the front, near the stage. If you arrive late, you get to stand next to the toilets on the opposite end of the room. This is just the way life works. That said, for no reason should anyone arrive at a concert more than an hour and a half early. By then the sound guys aren’t even there. Please, have some respect for yourself.

2. If you are buying yourself a refreshing alcoholic beverage, do us all a favor and take a sip

of it before you decide to weave through the audience like a jolly German beer-maid. Usually, the concert-goer’s goal is *not* to smell like a brewery or become beer-glued to a total stranger who they will later need to have removed via surgery at Hopkins Hospital.

3. Do not take flash photos of the band, your friends, your feet or your pockets. Would you do this at a Metallica concert? No. You’d be too afraid that they’d sue you for copyright infringement. Don’t do it at small underground events either. It kills the mood and blinds the incredibly attractive drummer.

4. If you’re in a stadium for a concert, don’t fling things (like ... oh, I don’t know, undergarments) from the upper tier of seats towards the stage unless you have major league aim. The people below you will not enjoy having your lacy best land on their heads.

5. Cell phones are not lighters. They are cell phones.

6. Make noise! You’re at a concert, not the opera. The band will usually play infinitely better based on the level of noise you

produce. They may even come back for a long encore, which will make those of us who spent lots of money very, very happy.

7. If you are over 5-foot-4, you have no reason to stand in front of the stage, unless you are legally wedded to one of the band’s performing members. You have an unfair and giraffe-like advantage over the rest of us. If you stand in front of me, you will get to experience the joy of having me use your shoulders as jumping supports while I attempt to get a tiny glimpse of the band whose music is playing so loudly (“Who is that?” I will ask. “I think I’d better check and see, since I’m in a dark room surrounded by very tall people,

with no visual indication as to why I’m here!”).

8. Unless your grandmother is on fire, you don’t need to talk on your cell phone. You’re at a concert. With music. Listen to the music.

9. This one’s for the bouncers: When you draw an X the size of Brazil on my hand, please make sure the marker is *not* permanent. The same goes for stamping ink.

10. Have fun.

11. Oh and ... please, for the love of Jimi Hendrix, do not give in to the urge to shout “free bird!” Be strong.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.GONNAGLES.NL](http://www.gonnagles.nl)

While having fun at a concert is essential, you have to be careful not to get *too* rowdy!

CARTOONS, ETC.

Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
All your favorite childhood TV shows were written by drug addicts. Accept this as a fact and move on.

Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
The doggie-swami predicts that your future will be murky like a lukewarm cup of frothy hot chocolate.

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Fried Oreos and Twinkies will give you a heart attack by age 35. But chocolate-covered strawberries will satisfy your sweet tooth.

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Food, when left out, will begin to mold. Do not eat this food. Especially if it has been found outside the kitchen. Like under your bed.

Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
At what point do college students realize that Ramen is not real food and is totally not an appropriate form of sustenance?

Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
Spring Fever is the cause for all the little bunnies on campus. Make sure to protect yourself so you don't have one too!

Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
Fair trade will keep the world turning. Free trade will keep the world happy. Can't we find a compromise?

Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Will you be my Valentine? Oops. Too late. Will you be my Earth Day partner? Let's save the world together.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Give thanks for the snow days that fall on exam days. Give praise for the kindly professors who frequently forget to come to class.

Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)
You should start studying for finals now. Get off the Beach, get back in the library. Nobody wants to see your hairy back.

Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
The choices you make in college can affect you for the rest of your life. For example, that tattoo ain't going nowhere fast.

Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
"Runs with Scissors" was my nickname at Native American Princess camp. I was a disobedient little kid.

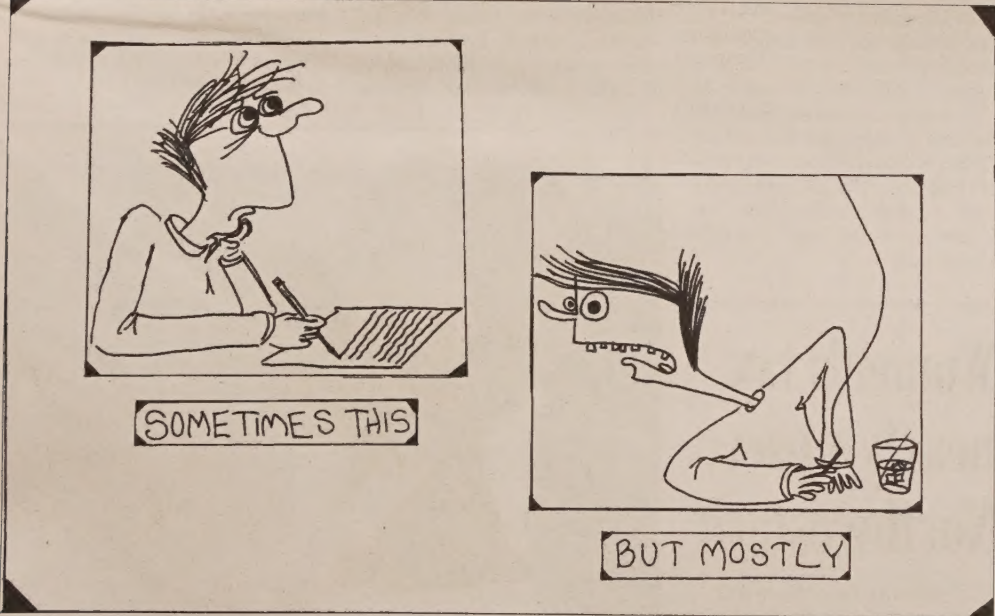
your Horoscope

Sudoku

			2	6				
	9			4			1	
	2	3				6	5	4
	6							9
7	3		6	9	2		8	5
9							2	
3	5	8				2	9	
	4			2			3	
				8	3			

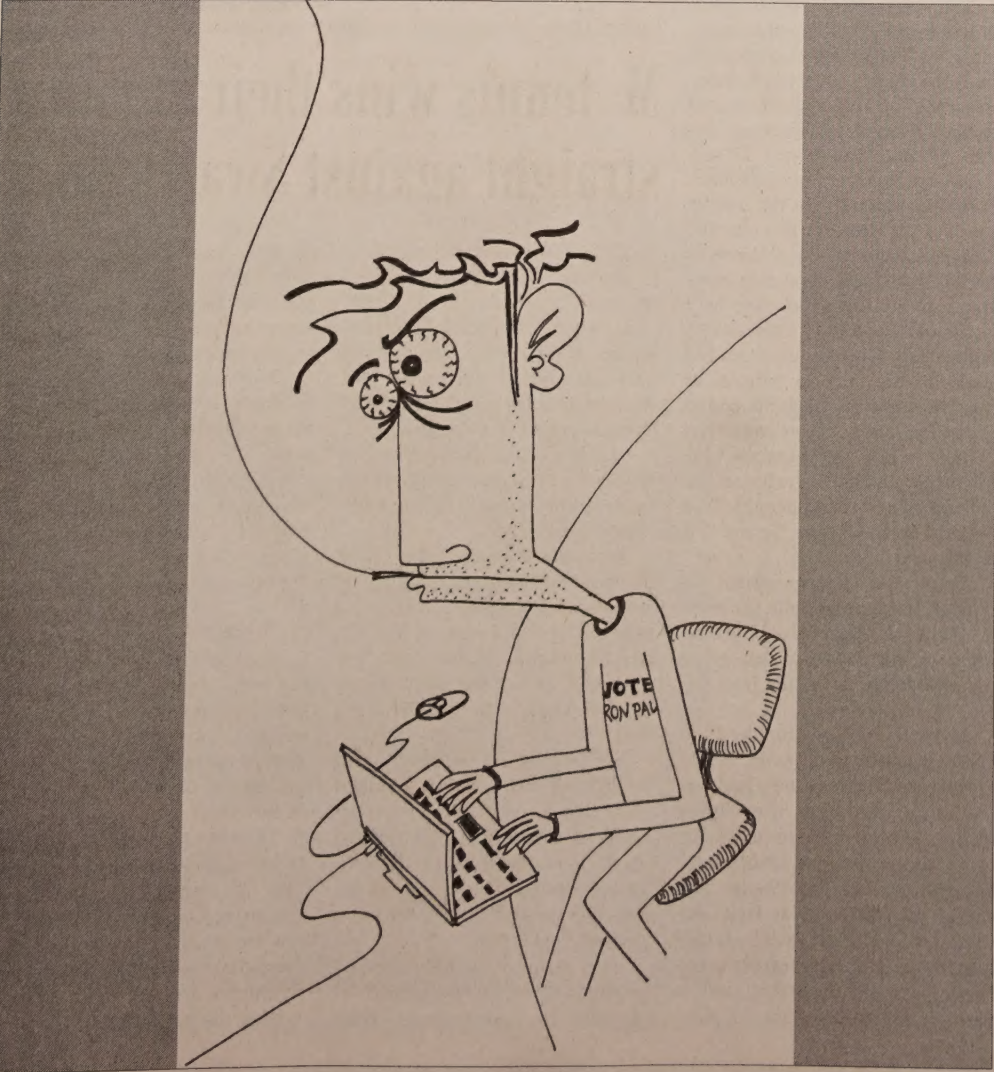
Third Person Objective

by B.G. Warner



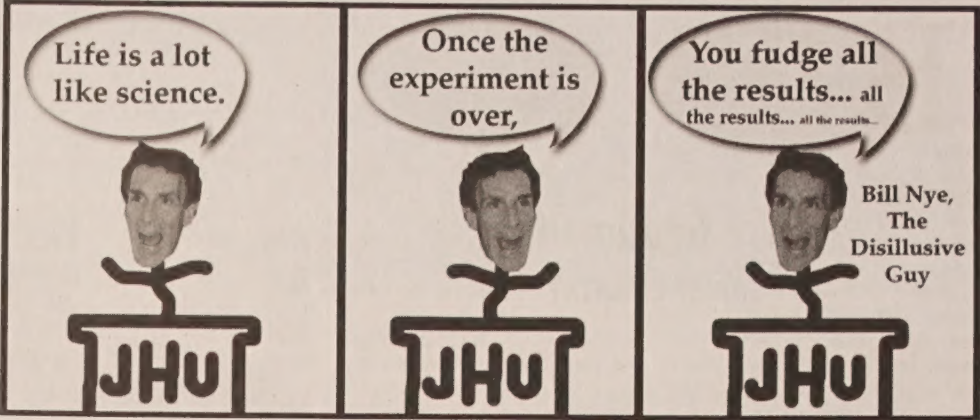
Third Party Election

by B.G. Warner



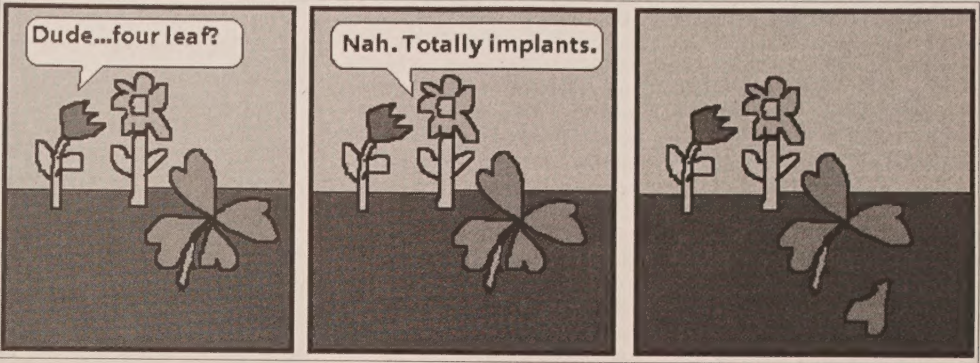
Comicali

by Joe Micali



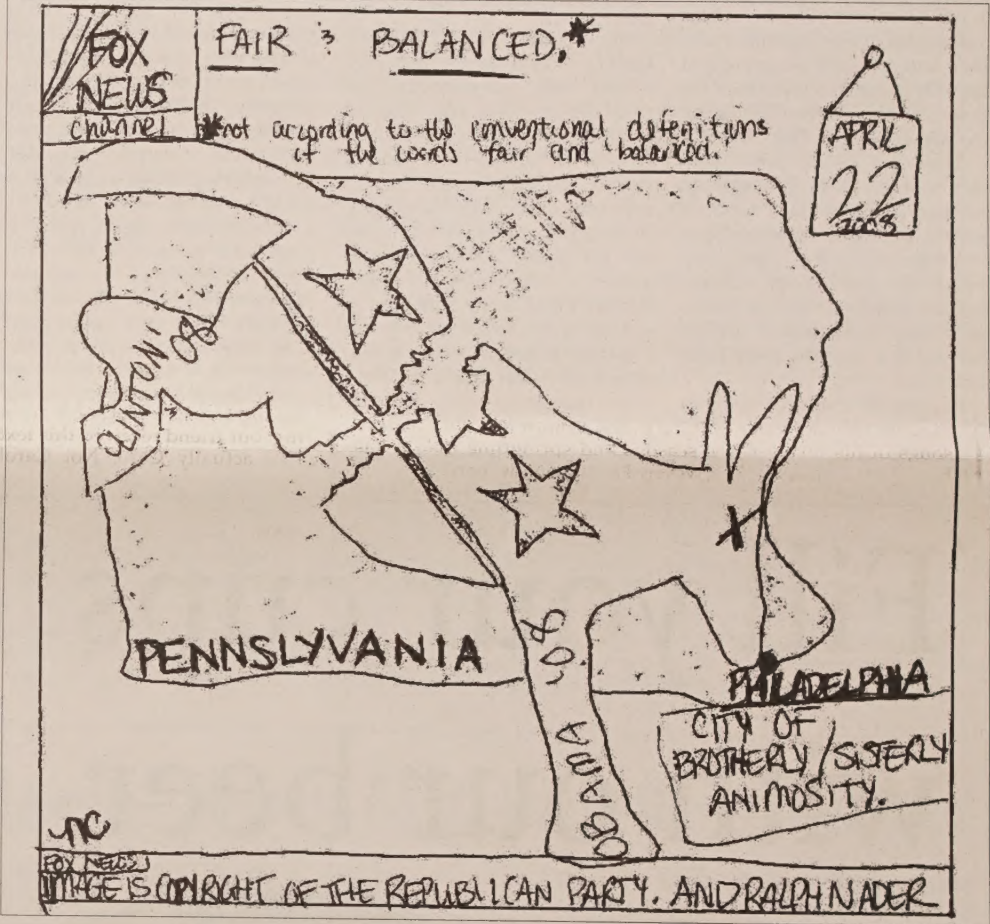
Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



Random Information

by Natachi Chukumerije



Me? A grown-up? On adulthood

Adult life is approaching. I can feel it. It's been presenting itself in various ways lately, from my mom prodding me about what I'm going to do after graduation to the cartoons editor at the *News-Letter* reminding me that my column for this week is both overdue and my last one ever.

The most recent evidence of my pending (and, might I add, uninvited) adulthood, however, is both more pathetic and — I think — more impressive than any of the previous evidence. I began turning into my father.

This demands some explanation. My dad has an Israeli accent and a disinclination towards listening to others.

In consumer situations, he turns into the Hulk. Whether he's buying a car or a loaf of bread, my dad approaches everyone with an attitude of suspicion and confrontation. I have seen him buy a gallon of milk at the supermarket, and upon seeing the price appear on the cash register screen say to the clerk, "No, no, it should be lower."

He was not implying that there had been some sort of error in ringing up his item — he was implying that the 16-year-old making minimum wage behind the register could and should lower the price of his gallon of milk.

Frankly, it's not my dad's fault. It's in his genes. I once saw my grandfather stand on top of a luggage cart in a hotel lobby, yelling — literally foaming at the

mouth — because he felt that the bellboys were not attending to him in a timely manner. Given this lineage, harassing cashiers is an improvement.

I've spent my whole life trying not to be Consumer Hulk Jr. I've always thought that fair commerce could be accomplished without abandoning civility, kindness and understanding for the position of a fellow human being.

Perhaps it was easy for me to feel this way, knowing that I could always call on my dad to come in and play the bad cop. The mark of my childhood was that I could be a nice person, and still get a discount on my cell phone.

My innocence ended this week.

I felt a rage percolating inside of me, the type of rage ends up embarrassing a person's friends and family, the type of rage that turns you into a grunting green bodybuilder.

No, I did not flip out and fly to California to beat a shipping clerk with my big green fists. I'd like to think that even in my heated moments, I'm still a rational, diplomatic, articulate person. Also, I'm a pussy.

So I sent the company a strongly-worded e-mail. Here is its most important paragraph. I think it's the heart and soul of the e-mail, and I'm pretty proud of it. Try to imagine it in the voice of an angry Sean Connery or James Earl Jones for full effect:

This shipping error is completely unacceptable. I paid for overnight shipping because I needed my order on Thursday. If I'd wanted it on Friday I wouldn't have spent over \$60 on shipping alone.

Moreover, it seems that the delay was caused by either laziness or incompetence on the part of your shipping department. I expect to receive a full refund, credited to my credit card account for both the purchase price and the shipping expenses. I'd be happy to return the merchandise to you, provided that Toy Arsenal pays for the return shipping.

OK, so maybe it's not quite screaming on top of a luggage cart. But it's a step towards being more aggressive and handling my own dirty business.

Perhaps I didn't fully turn into my father. I'll happily settle for the title of man-child.

Adar Eisenbruch Let's Talk

I ordered a couple of cap guns to use as props for a play that I was in. Like most things in my life, this was done right at the last minute, so I had to spring for the overnight shipping. (By the way, nothing makes you wish you had planned ahead quite like paying \$63 to ship \$15 worth of merchandise does.)

The cap guns didn't come overnight. I tracked them online, and found out that the toy company had not delivered them to UPS in time to be shipped overnight, so they would probably be one day late. Lo and behold, they arrived one day late.

SPORTS

Dealing with sports withdrawal in Baltimore

A die-hard New York sports fan discusses the problems he's encountered trying to watch his home teams and offers a solution

Back at home (Westchester, N.Y. — just north of New York City) there is a commercial for the cable company in which they repeatedly mention how the New York metro area

Eric Goodman
Guest Column

has nine major men's professional sports teams. Nine teams, spread out over four major sports. This means that I am usually never at a loss when it comes to wanting to watch the 'home' team.

It did not hit me until I got cable a few weeks into the school year that I would not be able to watch my beloved Yankees as they tried to catch the Red Sox at the top of the American League East division, or watch the Mets as they were trying to avoid a colossal late season collapse. I couldn't watch the Knicks, despite the worst season in team history, or the Rangers, who recently played another N.Y.-metro area team, the Devils, in the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

I got another cold, hard slap in the face during football season. I have two teams to root for — the Jets and the Giants. So when I woke up on December 16 to watch my Jets played the then undefeated New England Patriots, I was stunned to realize that the only game on television at the time was the Ravens taking on the winless Miami Dolphins.

There are people who probably think I have no right to complain. ESPN does tend to show a disproportionate amount of games featuring New York teams for marketing reasons. But for someone who is a die-hard New York sports junkie, the last few months have been somewhat trying.

I know that I am not alone in this boat. Freshman David Moorhead, who is from the suburbs

of Kansas City, Mo., feels the same way.

"I feel like I'm missing out on the play-by-play of Chiefs football games. Even though I'm now living in Baltimore, I'd rather watch sports teams from Kansas City," Moorshead said.

There are some people, however, who actually fall into the opposite boat. Eric Lubben, another freshman, hails from Stamford, Conn., but is actually a die-hard Orioles fan.

"I've liked the Orioles since I was five, so living in the Baltimore area provides opportunities not only to watch the games on TV, but also to go to the Yard and watch the games," Lubben said. "It's great because for any home game I can go down to the stadium and get a really cheap ticket and watch my team play."

I was very excited this past weekend when the Yankees came to town to take on the Orioles at Camden Yards. My friend and I went down to the game on Friday night, when tickets for college students are \$5 each. Perched up high atop the bleachers on the first base side of the field, we were surrounded by other college students from this area — from Loyola, Towson, UMBC, Maryland — many of whom were, presumably, also from the New York area. This led to about a 65-35 distribution of Orioles to Yankee fans. I found myself comfortably rooting for my home team, without a gigantic backlash. While the Yankees lost the game, it still served as almost a relief from the withdrawal I had been suffering at not being able to see my beloved Yankees in person, or on television, for the first couple of weeks of the season.

But all hope is not lost for those in the same precarious position



COURTESY OF [HTTP://ONTAPBLOG.COM](http://ONTAPBLOG.COM)

You might have trouble watching your favorite Angels play if you're in Baltimore.

that I am in. One option for those suffering from sports withdrawal (and who miss their local television provider in general) is the Slingbox. This is a device which enables its users to view their local cable or satellite provider through their home computer. I could be sitting in my room on a Sunday morning, writing a *News-Letter* column in one window, and watching the defending Super Bowl champion Giants in another. The price tag can get a little steep with this type of technology, but it would also allow you to possibly bypass paying for cable for your dorm room (which may not be so bad, unless you re-

ally want to watch the Orioles or Ravens). Another viable option is to watch the games through the league internet feeds. MLB.com can give you access to the local feeds for all major league games, but it does not come cheap either. A third option, for those who live off campus, would be to order a package such as Direct TV's NFL Sunday Ticket, which offers fans a chance to watch up to fourteen games per week (cable usually has four, two during Sunday afternoon, featuring local teams, which for us is the Ravens and Redskins, and Sunday and Monday night football, which are nationally broadcast). But this package costs over \$250 for the whole season.

In the grand scheme of things, this is really not such a big deal. I probably should not be watching sports on television so much, as I have more important things to do here at Hopkins. But at least I'll be prepared when I come back to Hopkins in the fall, around the time football season starts, to watch my teams play. And you can be too.

Women's lax nearly upsets Northwestern

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
freshman defender Brooke Lipinski said. "That's what hurt us in the end."

The see-sawing began again in the second half. Northwestern made it a 7-6 game just 29 seconds into the game, but sophomore Paige Ibello came right back and so did Stamper to increase the lead to three again. Just 25 seconds later, Spencer found the back of the net again to cut the lead to two. For the next five minutes the Blue Jays were unable to score as the Wildcats added on five more goals, giving them their first lead of the day. And they never let go of that lead. The two teams traded goals for the final 16 minutes of the game, and so the game ended at 14-12 in favor of Northwestern.

"We've had a problem all year finishing games," freshman attack Brooke Foussadier said. "We need to learn to play for the full 60 minutes."

"It was a disappointing attempt," freshman goalie Julianne Wisner said. "But we had the lead most of the game, which gives us confidence to go far into the NCAA Tournament."

In terms of saves for the Blue Jays, O'Ferrall had seven, while Lathrop of Northwestern had six. Not only becoming the eighth leading scorer in Hopkins history, Stamper also had three draw controls, giving her 199 for her career, only three away from the school record of 202 held by Jamie Larrimore. Hopkins travels up to Penn State this Saturday, with a game scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

Three Jays represent track team in multi-event meet

By JEREMY SELBST
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's and women's track and field teams entered a combined three athletes into the Messiah Multi-Event Meet in Grantham, Penn. last Sunday, April 13. Kathy Horn, Adam Waddell and Devin McDermott all had strong performances, finishing fifth, third and eighth respectively.

"Success on the track team requires a personal commitment to improvement," senior Allyson Segar said. "No one does it without the help of their teammates. The support system is incredible."

Freshman Logan Ashcraft's statements echoed those of Segar's, "It's interesting; we're a group of individuals specializing in every event from the steeplechase to the pole vault, yet we remain extremely close. The time commitment is huge, but we stick it out because we're running for each other; not for ourselves or our coaches."

The support system was certainly evident at the Messiah Meet, as none of the three competing athletes failed to make bold impressions in their particular events. Kathy Horn, a junior, scored 3,360 points to receive the fifth place spot in the heptathlon, an event that features five distinct parts (the high jump, shot put, 200-meter run, javelin and 800-meter run). Horn was able to receive her fifth place finish in the pool of 15 via a 1.39-meter high jump, an 8.36-meter long shot put, and a time of 29.17 seconds in the 200-meter dash on day one of the competition.

Horn's day two statistics were also impressive as she posted a 31.40-meter mark in the javelin throw and a time of 2:38.08 in the 800-meter run. Adam Waddell entered personally uncharted waters by competing in the decathlon over the weekend, having never

competed in the event. Waddell's inexperience proved to be a non-issue however, as the junior scored an impressive 6,049 points over the two-day spread — leading him to a third-place overall finish.

The 6,049 points behind Waddell's name also added the junior to the Hopkins history books, as he became the first Hopkins's athlete to break the 6,000-point mark in the decathlon. The 6,049 points in the junior's first showing in the decathlon not only set a new school record, but with the score he also reached the NCAA Championship Provisional Qualifying Mark.

We're running for each other, not for ourselves or our coaches.

— FRESHMAN LOGAN
ASHCRAFT

On day one of two Waddell finished third in the 100-meter dash in a time of 11.56 seconds and reached a height of 6.28 meters in the high jump, which was good enough for a second place finish in the event.

Waddell's day-one exploits also include a second place in the shot put (11.31m). Day two was equally impressive for Waddell, as he reached a height of 4.35 meters in the pole vault and finished the 110-meter hurdles in a time of 17.67 seconds. Waddell failed to finish below fourth in a field of 11 in any of the events he competed in. Despite Waddell's acclaim, he was not the only Hopkins athlete to compete well in the decathlon.

Fellow junior Devin McDermott had also had a strong showing, finishing eighth and tallying 4,606 points over the course of the weekend. McDermott's performance included a long jump of 5.91 meters and a shot put distance of 11.08 meters on day one. Day two for McDermott included a javelin throw of 38.15 and a time of 5:13.00 in the 1,500-meter run.

Hopkins's men's and women's track teams will have a larger showing at the upcoming meets, as this one was only for a few specific athletes who specialize in the above events.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman Casey Blythe battles it out against one of his tough Red Devil opponents.

M. tennis wins their eighth straight against Swarthmore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

Blythe had a comfortable time on the court against the Red Devils, going 6-3, 6-2 but felt a little heat against Swarthmore. He and his partner senior Joe Vasoontara lost the first doubles match on the day to the Garnets by two points.

"I feel as though Swarthmore will be our toughest competition in the tournament," Blythe said. "They fight hard."

Vasoontara continued to build on his 100th career victory in singles and doubles, which he notched the Tuesday prior. He handily won by no less than five points in any of his singles sets against Dickinson and Swarthmore.

Senior Rafael Roberti also picked up two singles victories with all set wins by at least four-point margins, and later teamed up with senior Matt Naftilan for an 8-0 doubles win against the Red Devils and an 8-2 triumph against the Garnet.

The team does not plan on getting any extra rest before the playoffs by jeopardizing their

normal practice regimen — which is typically two hours on the court for six days a week, not counting time spent in the gym on workouts.

"Nothing in our routine will be changed to prepare for conferences," freshman Andrew Wang said.

That attitude has helped carry Wang to six wins a row in singles play. His doubles partner sophomore David Maldow has similarly not collected a loss since April 6.

Though tennis is considered to be an individual sport by most, the Jays act as one unit and their aptitude for coming together when it is most needed, is what allows them to be successful in one of the strongest conferences in the country.

"The team plays well at the right time," Willenborg said. "We lost some close ones early in the season to some of the higher ranked teams in the country, and I feel that we have made some adjustments and are playing really well at the moment."

Fill your cups with our beer.



Join us at the News-Letter table in the Beer Garden at this year's Spring Fair, April 24-27. Rain or shine, it's gonna be the best weekend ever...or at least this semester.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
MIKE GVOZDEN, MEN'S LACROSSE

Gvozden stays relaxed on and off the field

By MARY DOMAN
Sports Editor

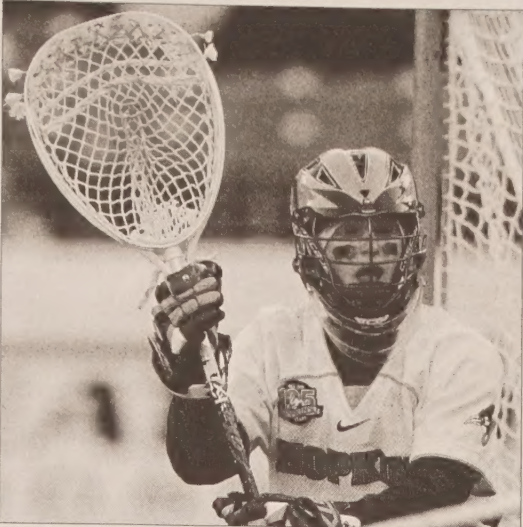
Sophomore lacrosse goalie Mike Gvozden loves defending only one thing more than the lacrosse goal: his heritage. Did you know that our star defender is also half Brazilian?

Unlike other athletes of the week, when writing about a lacrosse goalie, there's really no need to describe in detail an unfamiliar sport or position. There's no reason to recap the season or inform the student body that the team actually exists at Hopkins. For once, it's almost safe to say that Hopkins students actually might already know about this athlete of the week, his accomplishments, maybe even his record! So this time, let's stay away from the statistics, the numbers, and the lacrosse gibber that already surrounds this campus and focus instead on the delicate, distinctive characters that make Mike Gvozden more than just a statistic.

First and foremost, Gvozden is half Brazilian.

Personally, Gvozden has kept his distance from the records and numbers for quite some time. "You have to ignore what everyone else says and just relax," he said. He attributes this laid-back attitude directly to his Brazilian lineage.

Though his body may be in Baltimore, Gvozden's heart is in Brazil. "They just have a different way of living there, and different beliefs about things. They're a lot more laid-back," he says. He's even proven his loyalty to his South American homeland by



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

joining the Brazilian army. Not that he thinks the friendly Brazilian people are headed towards war anytime soon. And if they are? "Well ... then we're going to have issues," he said.

A citizen of two countries, a soon-to-be Hopkins graduate, and a lacrosse national champion? Gvozden's got quite a lot of titles to uphold. However, the pressure doesn't get to him. Just like in a game, he tries to stay relaxed while everyone else does the talking. Not that he's not alert, though. Gvozden's eyes and ears are constantly open. Even though he's not able to interact in the game like the rest of the team, Gvozden stays on his toes the whole time. "I try to focus on the ball and make sure that I'm doing a good job of getting my defense in the right slide package," he

goes to Rita's Italian Ice on York Road with some friends. But Italian ice isn't Brazilian, you say! Staying true to his roots, Gvozden always orders mango. The day of the game, he keeps the cool from Rita's by listening to plenty of easy tunes. These include Jordan Sparks, Natasha Bedingfield, Michelle Branch and Avril Lavigne, to name a few. "The heavy stuff just doesn't work for me," he admits. Again, not-so-Brazilian. After the game, though, Gvozden finally

said.

Before the game, Gvozden gets himself in that Brazilian laid-back mode through a number of relaxing rituals. The night before a match, he throws away all his scouting notes and films about the opposing team and

embraces his heritage by heading to Fogo de Chao, a Brazilian steakhouse at the Inner Harbor.

The rituals may contradict his easy-going style a bit, but no Hopkins student could survive without a little paranoia, right? "Since I've gotten here, I've definitely become more superstitious," he admits. Still, when it comes to lacrosse, Gvozden knows the outcome of the game actually lies in his own hands. "Being the goalie, you're either the champ or the chump," he said.

In only his first year as a starter, Gvozden's become familiar with both titles in the Jays' challenging season. During the team's recent five-game losing streak, Gvozden had to really work in order to tune out some discouraging voices. During the small rough patch, he claimed he "really realized who [his] true friends and fans were."

At the end of the day, though, Gvozden really just wants to spend time with three of his favorite things: friends, family,

and Brazilian heritage. Next summer, he's eager to mix all of these as some of his teammates and his family will travel to Brazil. He plans on bringing his lacrosse gear along for the vacation, too, of course. "If I could give anything to Brazil, it'd be the sport of lacrosse," he said.

This might be a hefty task for one person, but Gvozden's in no rush. He's just taking life easy for now, rocking along to the beats of Michelle Branch while the statistics, numbers and rankings melt away with each spoonful of Italian ice. "For now we're just taking it one game at a time," he said, "and trying to get better every game."

And that's the side of Mike Gvozden that makes him more than just a lacrosse player — half Brazilian, mostly laid-back, and completely one-of-a-kind.

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Sophomore
Major: Psychology
Position: Goalie

Hopkins Highlights:
Blocked 16 of Navy's 20 shots on goal.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman Matt Dolente battles through an opponent towards a Blue Jay victory.

Blue Jay lacrosse puts an end to losing streak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
in the third period, yet Gvozden remained a stone wall between the pipes, blocking each one of Navy's efforts.

The Blue Jays once again took control in the fourth quarter, with twin goals from Peyser and junior midfielder Andrew Miller within the first five minutes of play, making the score 11-3. Miller's last goal initiated yet another long offensive stalemate, broken by Navy's fourth goal of the game, a full 32 minutes and 34 seconds of play after their previous one in the second quarter.

Their efforts came too late. Junior midfielder Andrew Jaffe scored the Blue Jays' 12th and final goal after a long stalling period, breaking inside for a quick shot. In a last-minute act of futility, the Midshipmen scored their fifth and final goal 46 seconds later. Navy attempted to rally and close the gap in the closing seconds, yet Gvozden remained as strong a force as ever, closing off the game with his 16th save in the final two seconds of play.

The Hopkins men's lacrosse team, once caught in a disappointing five-game slump, seems to be back with a vengeance.

"Senior leadership has taken over and had a big impact on our team," sophomore attack Michael Kimmel said. "Our attitude has changed too. We've started just taking one game at a time and decided that we can't take any opponent lightly and that's what

the playoffs are for."

"The biggest change that we have made is our preparation and our ability to follow and listen to the coaching staff's direction come game-time," Rabil said. "We feel that we are a very talented team capable of winning every game."

After back-to-back wins against Maryland and Navy, the team morale has escalated significantly. The Blue Jays are playing like the pre-season hype said they would, and the intensity has only grown as they move closer and closer to the post-season.

"We have stopped listening to what other people have to say about our team and just play for each other," Gvozden said.

"I think last year helped us to realize that if you get down by a couple games, you don't give up," Kimmel said. "You play one game at a time. I think this year is a different group of guys, different leaders on the team and it's definitely taken on a different kind of mindset."

With three games against Maryland rivalries (Towson, Mount St. Mary's, Loyola) remaining on the Blue Jays' regular season schedule the men's team is looking for a sweep to maintain their sixth-ranking spot in the nation and gain a decent seed in the playoffs. With the strength of senior leadership and head coach Dave Pietramala's historic poise in the post-season, a top finish looks to be a strong possibility.

W. tennis wins one, loses one over weekend

By KATIE MOODY
News-Letter Staff Writer

Despite high expectations when the Hopkins women's tennis team headed south to Fredericksburg, Va. on Sunday, the Jays came home with a loss after they faced the first-ranked Washington & Lee (21-0). This is Hopkins' second loss of the season, and their record falls to a still-impressive 13-2, even with losing the match to the Generals 7-2.

Hopkins came back to Baltimore with two wins in the match: one in the second doubles and one in the third singles. The doubles team of sophomore Amanda Schubert and freshman Abby Dwyer improved their record to 9-2 on the season with a hard-earned 9-8 win at second over Leah Weston and Catherine Reed. At third singles, freshman Yasmine Elamir improved her win total to 14 straight, when she soundly defeated Weston 6-2, 7-5.

Schubert recaps the doubles match. "Abby and I were really focusing on playing as a team during our doubles match against Washington & Lee," she said. "We played in a way that could maximize both of our

strengths. It just clicked really well on Sunday. We both brought our A-games."

Dwyer agrees with her teammate. "During our doubles match we just knew that we didn't have any pressure on us," she said. "We were playing the number one team in the country and the number-two doubles team opposed to our normal number-three spot — so we were just really psyched to have this opportunity. We just went in with nothing to lose and happen to come out on top."

The excitement over the two wins in the match overshadowed the overall defeat for the Lady Jays. Even though there was an air of disappointment, the team is clearly not at all losing any focus or momentum. They are taking the match against Washington & Lee as a chance to really focus on their few weaknesses, and learn where to score the most points as they finish the season.

"We tend to think of our team as primarily a singles team, because we find we can rely on our singles matches for points," Schubert said. "In practices we have been trying to focus on strengthening our doubles, especially because doubles matches are played before singles, so it's

nice to gain a quick lead."

"We do a ton of drills and we always play at least one set of singles and doubles each practice," Dwyer said. "Coach [Willenborg] really focuses on us hitting a lot of balls each day and we have to go into every practice like we do in every match: 100 percent."

One-hundred percent is exactly what these ladies are looking to bring to the court when they host Mary Washington (23-3) on Tuesday, April 22 and then go on to host the 2008 Centennial Conference Championship on the 25th and 27th. As the pressure builds and the road to nationals lies out before them, the ladies are doing their best to stay cool, calm and focused on getting there one match at a time. When the ladies last faced Mary Washington, it was in the 2007 NCAA tournament, and the Jays fell 5-4.

This year, they have a new plan of attack, doing all they can to keep the pressure off them and on their opponents. "We are kind of in the same situation with Mary Washington as we were with Washington & Lee," Dwyer said enthusiastically. "We know that this team is supposed to beat us, so the pressure is on them and we need to just go out there and play our hearts out."

Shubert agrees. "We are happy to be hosting a top team and hope to continue our strong record of winning at home!" she said.

Looking slightly past the match against Mary Washington, the ladies hope to dominate the Centennial Conference Championship, and head to the NCAA tournament. The competition will be very tough, but this year's squad is better than ever, and they are ready to face the challenges that wait for them.

Confidence, teamwork and personal improvement are important to the squad, according to Dwyer. "I'm really confident in our team. We know how to play when we need to and no matter what the result is, we all know that we're getting better from these experiences."



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Freshman Abby Dwyer took a 9-2 doubles season record with partner Amanda Schubert.

Baseball defeats F&M, leads the conference

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
quiet, throwing another 2 scoreless innings in support, preserving the win for Angeloni.

"The hitting was there when we needed it," Coach Babb said after the game. "That's been our strength all season: We've hit good pitching, bad pitching. Everything that we've faced we've hit."

Surprisingly, going into game two, F&M rebounded nicely and went up 1-0 in the top of the first. But that didn't hamper the Jays at all. Following a two-out single, Emr hit an RBI triple out to center-field, evening the game at 1-1. After the first inning fireworks, the second inning was quiet.

The real fireworks began in the bottom of the third, with senior infielder Nate Adelman leading off the inning with a laser beam over the left field wall. Two batters later, sophomore outfielder Brian Youchak added another two, with a long towering shot over the center field wall. And after the long shots of Youchak and Adelman, the Jays strung together a couple singles and sneak home another run that inning with an RBI groundout from junior infielder Ryan Biner.

The four-run third put the Jays up 5-1. And while F&M would get another two back in the top of the fourth, 5-3 would be the closest

the Diplomats came to the Jays that game. The Jays went up 9-3 in the bottom of the sixth. And while the first five runs can be looked at as a team effort, all it took to score the next four was one swing of the bat of Brian Youchak. Coming to bat with the bases loaded, he smacked a grand slam clear

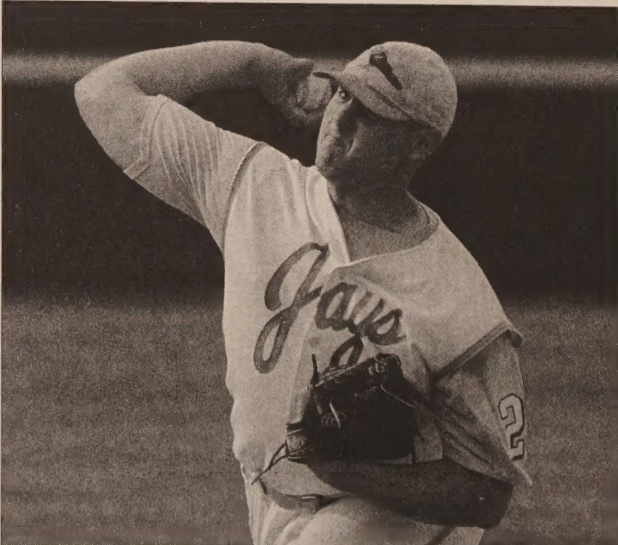
ning, they found themselves once again on the receiving end of Youchak. Youchak rattled off the second triple of the inning, bringing home Adelman in his his seventh RBI of the game.

The Jays seemed to be in trouble momentarily in the eighth. Pitcher Joe Zaccaria's day was complete following seven strong innings of three-run ball, and he gave way to a bullpen that looked a little shaky. In the eighth, four walks, one hit batter, two pass-balls and a double resulted in three runs for F&M. It took three different Hopkins pitchers to stop the bleeding. But lucky for them, the 12 runs that their offense had scored for them gave them plenty of cushion. The three runs the diplomats scored in the eighth brought the score to 12-6, but that was all they were able to muster for the rest of the game.

But while the eighth inning mishaps proved inconsequential, they did highlight something Coach Babb mentioned about the team.

"We got kind of worried in the eighth, but it just showed that our pitching isn't quite there yet. All of these guys have incredible potential, and Zaccaria pitched a great game, but on the whole, we still have some room for improvement."

The Jays now sit with a commanding three-game lead in the Centennial Conference standings with only two conference match-ups left in their schedule, clinching home field advantage throughout the playoffs.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Senior Tony Margve relays the ball back to the infield to hold a tough defense.

over the right-field fence, netting the Jays another four runs and putting the game ultimately out of reach. And as great as 2 home runs are, he still wasn't done for the day.

From there, the Jays pressed their lead to 12-3 in the seventh. Following a throwing error that put a Blue Jay on second, Lee Bolyard brought him home on a triple into center field.

The errors continued for the Diplomats, as another throwing error on the following batter brought home Bolyard and put Nate Adelman on second. Two batters later, with two out after F&M should have ended the in-

SPORTS

Did You Know?

Benny the Bull, the mascot for the Chicago Bulls is being sued for accidentally injuring an Illinois dentist while attempting to give a high five. Benny apparently fell forward while extending his hand and grabbed onto the dentist's arm as he fell, hyperextending it and causing bicep muscle damage.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY

W. Tennis vs. Washington 3 p.m.

SATURDAY

Baseball vs. Haverford 12:30 p.m.
M. Tennis Conf. Tournament 3 p.m.

M. lax sinks Midshipmen for 34th straight time

By **DEMIAN KENDALL**
Sports Editor

The Hopkins men's lacrosse team is finally back to looking the way they looked in the beginning of the season, when the Blue Jays coveted a number-one national ranking. This Saturday's win against the Naval Academy Midshipmen was especially monumental not only because it tallied the second consecutive win following the five-game slump, but it also marked the 34th consecutive time the Jays have laid the pain on the boys from Annapolis.

Hopkins (5-5) took the initiative early in the game, in front of the intimidating second-largest lacrosse attendance in Naval Academy history. After a rallying first quarter, the Blue Jays dominated, fighting toward a final score of 12-5.

Senior attack Kevin Huntley drew first blood in the match-up, with a remarkable behind-the-back goal after scooping a loose ball from the crease just over a minute into the game. Huntley followed with yet another shortly after, and within the first ten minutes of play, sophomore attack Steven Boyle and freshman attack Kyle Wharton tacked on two goals for themselves, mak-



Sophomore midfielder Michael Powers cradles the ball to avoid a stick check from a Navy defender late in Saturday's game.

SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ing the score 4-0.

Navy, however, was quick to respond. Navy's Tim Paul was the rallying force for the Midshipmen, slicing in two goals within 49 seconds. The attempt at a rally was short-lived, however, as Huntley scored his third goal of the game, seconds after Paul's to record a first quarter hat trick and bring the score to 5-2.

Senior midfielder Paul Rabil opened the second quarter strong, rifling in his 17th goal of the season. After Rabil's goal, a long stalemate ensued, fueled by strong defense on both sides and a stellar performance by sophomore goalie Mike Gvozden.

Final
Navy 5
Hopkins 12

"The offense dominated time of possession which really helped our defense relax a bit," Gvozden said. "The defense played tremendously hard and made things much easier for me. They deserve the credit."

Navy broke the second period lull in the last five minutes of the half with a crease shot from Nick Mirabito to close out the half with Hopkins leading by three. Mirabito's goal would be the last Navy goal until the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

The Blue Jays opened the second half with a face-off execution that has become a lethal force for the team. Senior midfielder Stephen Peyser handily won the opening face, feeding a fast break which allowed senior attack Michael Doneger to score Hopkins's seventh goal a mere seven seconds after the whistle. Doneger and junior midfielder Mark Bryan scored two more in the third quarter, but the star performance of the period came from Gvozden.

Navy managed to outshoot Hopkins by four with 10 shots
CONTINUED ON PAGE B11

Baseball earns top spot in conference with win

By **MIKE SUMNER**
News-Letter Staff Writer

The baseball teams from Hopkins and Franklin & Marshall College both sit at the top of the Centennial Conference. Coming into Saturday's double-header, the Blue Jays' record of 13-1 held a mere one game lead over the Diplomats, who sat at 12-2. Unfortunately for the Diplomats, they drove into Baltimore only to be driven back the powerful Blue Jay lineup. The bats came alive for the Blue Jays as they soundly defeated the Diplomats 10-3 in game one, and followed that up with a 12-6 victory in the second half.

Game one started out as a tightly contested match. On the mound for the Blue Jays was junior Chez Angeloni. He allowed just three runs over 4.1 innings pitched. But facing a potential threat in the fifth, he was relieved by sophomore Matt Wiegand,

who shut down the Diplomats, preserving the Blue Jay lead at 4-3 as the game went into the last of the fifth.

It would be senior infielder Matt Benchener who would boost the Jay's lead with an RBI double. He was followed by sophomore infielder Lee Bolyard, whose single snagged another run for the Jays, boosting the lead up to 7-3 and chasing F&M pitcher, Matt Kalos, from the mound.

From there, the game hardly seemed like a contest for the last couple innings. In the bottom of the sixth, the Blue Jays would score another three. Following a run scoring single from senior infielder Todd Emr, Benchener came up yet again to put the game completely out of reach. His single to center field brought in two more Blue Jays and the scoreboard now read 10-3. And while the bats stayed hot, Wiegand kept Franklin & Marshall
CONTINUED ON PAGE B11



A Hopkins player slides into home to score one of the Jays' 12 runs on Saturday.

CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

W. lax nearly upsets Northwestern

In a back-and-forth game, the Jays almost delivered undefeated Northwestern their first loss

By **MIKE PORAMBO**
News-Letter Staff Writer

In a back-and-forth game at Lakeside Field last Friday, the Johns Hopkins women's lacrosse team fell short of upsetting No. 1 Northwestern, losing 14-12. There were numerous ties and lead changes throughout the game. When one team scored, the other would fire right back. If not for a five-minute stretch where the Wildcats scored six straight unanswered goals, the Blue Jays would be celebrating victory over the No. 1 team in the country. Instead, Hopkins fell to 6-8 on the season and winless in the American Lacrosse Conference, while Northwestern retains its undefeated record and No. 1 ranking.

For the Jays, senior midfielder Kadie Stamper contributed a career-high five goals, giving her a career total of 91, eighth in all-time Hopkins Division-I history.

In the usual fashion, Hopkins wasted no time getting on the board first. Just 1:40 into the game, senior midfielder Kirby Houck buried the ball into the net over the stick-side shoulder

of goalie Morgan Lathrop. And so the back-and-forth struggle began. Only 35 seconds later, Northwestern tied the game at one apiece on a nice move by Hilary Bowen. But Hopkins was not slow to retaliate, with Stamper scoring her first of many on the day on a free position goal.



Senior midfielder Lauren Schwarzmunn jets past one of Northwestern's defenders.

CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Stamper continued to evade Northwestern's defense and be in the right position at the right time. When a shot by Lauren Schwarzmunn deflected off of the helmet of Lathrop, Stamper picked up the loose ball in the crease and fired it home for her

second of the day. Hopkins enjoyed a two-goal lead briefly.

The Wildcats made it 3-2 with 19:09 left to play in the half. It looked as though Northwestern would tie it up and even take the lead, but sophomore goalie Lizzie O'Ferrall had two nice back-to-back saves, keeping

Northwestern at bay. When Northwestern tied the game at 3-3 with 12:32 left in the half, Houck came right back only twenty seconds later, recapturing the lead at 4-3. Three minutes later, Danielle Spencer of Northwestern found the back of the net to tie the game up yet again, but the Blue Jays answered quickly with a goal by sophomore Sam Schrum. The Jays continued to roll, with Schwarzmunn adding her first of the day a minute later. Stamper added her third of the day with just eight seconds remaining in the half. It looked as though Hopkins would

have a 7-4 lead going into the half, but after winning the draw and two quick passes, Casey Donohoe of Northwestern fired a quick shot into the back of the net as time expired.

"We lost too many draws,"
CONTINUED ON PAGE B10

Men's tennis secures eighth straight win

By **ALEXANDER IP**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Extending a winning streak to eight events came with something extra for the men's tennis team to celebrate.

By shutting out the Dickinson Red Devils on Saturday and beating the Swarthmore Garnets 7-2 to close out their regular season on Sunday, the Jays swept the Centennial Conference for the second year in a row.

"I was interested to see how we responded this season after last year," head coach Chuck Wilenborg said. "I was proud of the way we have prepared and the way we have played. One of our goals was to get the home court advantage and play the [Centennial Conference Tournament]

where we haven't lost in a few years."

On top of forcing their Conference foes to come and play on Blue Jay turf next weekend, the team most importantly kept their momentum going and built confidence in their ability to move on to face the tougher national opponents in the weeks to come.

"Winning showed our continued domination over our Conference and our readiness for the NCAA tournament in May," sophomore Peter Vale said.

Vale accentuated the recent team achievement on an individual level, almost having a perfect Conference record himself. His one loss came against the Garnets, but the close 6-4, 6-4 defeat right before the playoffs doesn't phase him.

"I feel great knowing I helped the team," Vale said. "I did not play as well [against Swarthmore] as I have been, but I think it was just an off day for me."

Freshman Casey Blythe was able to end his year on an extremely high note, breaking the Hopkins record for most wins by a freshman after taking two matches this weekend to bring his total to 19 victories.

"It means a lot to have such a mark, but I hope to continue this in coming years as our team continues to get better," Blythe said.

Blythe had a comfortable time on the court against the Red Devils, going 6-3, 6-2 but felt a little heat against Swarthmore. He and his partner senior Joe Vasoontara lost the first
CONTINUED ON PAGE B10



Senior Rafael Roberti lays down a forearm shot. Roberti picked up two wins this weekend, each by at least a margin of four.

ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT

INSIDE

Women's Tennis: Mary Washington

Despite stellar individual efforts by several members, the women's tennis team fell by a score of 6-3 to the squad from Mary Washington this weekend.
Page B11.

Athlete of the Week: Mike Gvozden

Sophomore goalie Mike Gvozden has been a stone wall between the pipes this season. The Brazilian lacrosse superstar, however, is more laid back than you would think. **Page B11.**

Track: Messiah Multi-Event

Three members from the men's and women's track team (Horn, Waddell, McDermott) made the trip to Messiah Pennsylvania for a multi-event meet this past weekend. **Page B10.**